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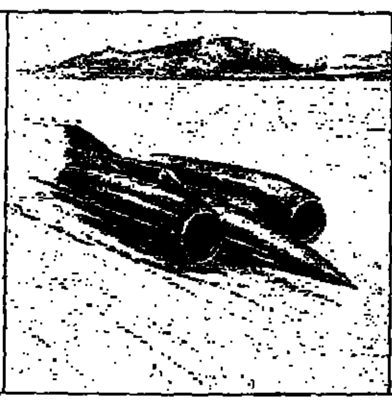

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THE TIMES

No. 65,182

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 4 1995

Single currency needs right terms

Major warns EU could be torn apart

By Philip Webster, political editor

BRITAIN is to set new conditions for joining a European single currency beyond those in the Maastricht treaty, John *Major announced last night.*

At the same time he made plain that he is to resist the demands of the Euro-sceptics that he close off the option of joining a *single currency,* possibly as early as 1999.

Mr Major's delicate balancing act, designed to give the *Conservative* Party a policy around which it can unite in the run-up to the next general election, was outlined last night in a speech to the Thatcherite Conservative Way Forward group. His agenda, which he hopes will end the rift on his back benches, *marks a substantial development* in the Government's European policy.

The Prime Minister pleased *those on the right of his party* with a warning that unless the economic conditions were right "a single currency would tear the European Union *apart*". And he disclosed that Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor would use a speech next week to lay down new requirements *to justify a single currency.* Under the Maastricht treaty, strict financial conditions, including debt ratios and levels of inflation, have to be met. But in a move that will alarm Britain's partners in the EU, Mr Clarke is to propose that these should go *further.*

It is understood that the Government intends to suggest that broader economic *conditions, including the flexibility* of labour markets in different countries, will have to be met.

Mr Major repeated the Government's line that sterling could *not* be *part of* a single currency in 1996 or 1997. "We don't believe anyone could sensibly want to go *ahead then, but if they do we* would not be with them."

Then, in a formula that is understood to have been agreed with Mr Clarke and Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, Mr Major went on: "Nor can we accept a prejudgment about some unknown *time in the future.* The right for our Parliament to take the decision that it wants, when it wants, is undoubted. *That lies in the future.* To say 'yes' now or 'no' now is to operate on a hunch, not facts."

Mr Major's formula is a *rebuff for the nine whipless* Euro-rebels who have demanded as part of their own "manifesto" for returning to the party that a single currency be ruled out. It also pre-empts a campaign by senior right-wing Cabinet ministers such as Michael Portillo, *Jonathan Aitken and* Peter Lilley, who were planning to push Mr Major to give a pledge in the next election *manifesto that Britain would* not join the single currency *during the next Parliament.* The compromise will be seen as an important concession to Mr Clarke and the Cabinet *Euro-enthusiasts.*

Other parts of Mr Major's speech to his Euro-sceptic audience were warmly welcomed. He gave a clear pledge *that Britain would veto any moves* at next year's conference on the future of Europe that would lead to a more *centralised and interventionist* EU. He promised: "Ambitious schemes for centralism will simply not get through. Brit*ain for one will not* accept them. Nor will electorates across Europe where a referendum would have to be held."

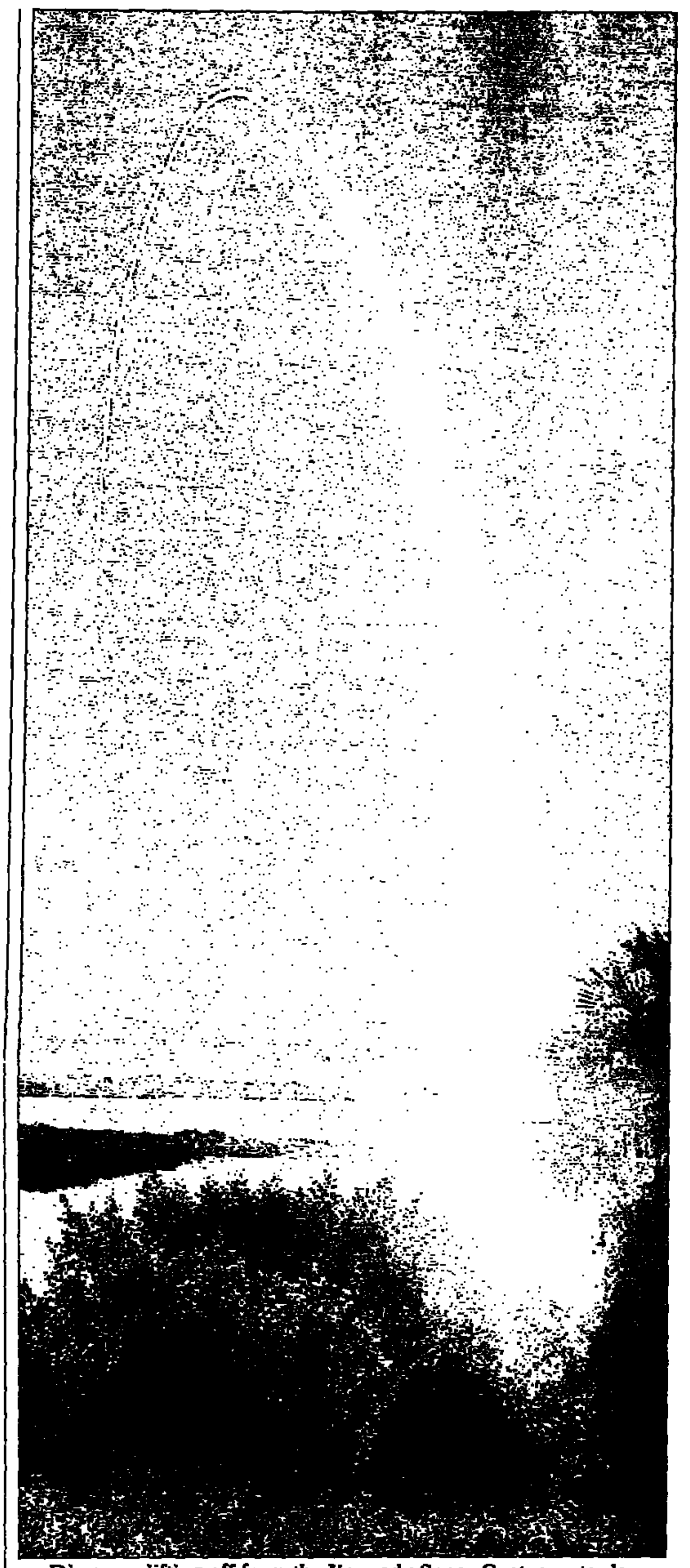
He said *that Britain aimed* for a more flexible EU. "A Europe of 15, possibly 20 *around the turn of the century* and more than 25 beyond that cannot be the same as a Europe of six. Talk of a fast track and a slow misses the point. *We do not all have to do* the same things at the same time in the same way and we shall resist pressure to do so. *Unless Europe is flexible, it* will simply grind to a halt."

In remarks that will delight the sceptics, Mr Major gave *notice that he would be pressing* for changes in EU voting systems to give the largest populations a larger say. There are strong *indications* that Britain will be seeking a reduction in the powers of the European Court. He also said that there *should* be fewer *commissioners* and "a *more* cost-conscious commission".

Simon Jenkins and Nicholas Budgen, page 16

Ireland releases IRA prisoners

John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, urged Britain to consider releasing terrorists after Dublin freed five IRA *prisoners.* Tory backbenchers and Unionists denounced his remarks and the Government said that there would be no amnesty .... Page 2



Discovery lifting off from the Kennedy Space Center yesterday

KARL RONSTROM/REUTER

Michael Foale and Eileen Collins

Briton heads for spacewalk

By Nick Nuttall and Tom Rhodes

THE man who will become the first Briton to walk in space blasted off from Cape Canaveral in Florida yesterday amid fears that a sudden *leak in one steering thruster could threaten the* space shuttle *Discovery's* mission.

Dr Michael Foale, 38, an astrophysics graduate of Cambridge University, was last night *about 200 miles* above Earth closing in for a *rendezvous with the Russian space station Mir.* He is expected to leave the crew's quarters for his walk on Thursday. However, eight minutes after launch ground controllers discovered that *two of the craft's 44 steering jets were leaking.* It is thought the problem can be overcome by turning the leaking jet towards the sun to melt fuel that might prevent a valve closing.

Dr Foale, who lives in *Houston, Texas, would* have been the first Briton in space if the Challenger disaster of 1986 had *not* postponed shuttle missions. Instead, Helen Sharman *earned that distinction on the Anglo-Soviet Juno* mission to Mir in 1991.

The latest eight-day mission is also the first to have a woman at the controls — Lieutenant-*Colonel Eileen Collins of the US Air Force.* Nasa — the American space administration — the European Space Agency and Russia hope to learn techniques that will allow them to build a *space station.*

Inside the six-section Times today

Simon Jenkins, columnist, on a triumph for Eurofanatics. **Page 16**

Paul Heiney, *farmer, tries to take a leaf out of Thomas Hardy's* books. **Weekend, page 19**

Anne Robinson, diarist, has a beery night with the literary set. **Magazine, page 3**

Matthew Bond, television critic, on the BBC version of *The Buccaneers.* **Vision, page 5**

Jonathan Meades, restaurant reviewer, samples lukewarm cooking in chilly Norfolk. **Magazine, page 39**

John Hopkins, *sports writer, on* Dean Richards and *le crunch,* **Sport, page 38**

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Rugby touts sell seats for £700 a pair

By John Goodbody

TOUTS were yesterday demanding a record £700 a pair for tickets for this afternoon's *England v France match* at Twickenham which is expected to decide the winner of the Five Nations' championship.

***About 100 tickets have been* stolen and the Rugby Football Union yesterday warned spectators not to buy from *unauthorised sellers.* The union has also increased *efforts to stop* tickets being resold by touts.**

Richard Ankerson, *the ticket office manager,* said: "We are never pleased to hear about a black market, but the *fact that the prices are so high* indicates that tickets are scarce and that we have succeeded in reducing the flow from clubs *and schools.*"

Match preview, page 40

Jill Phipps's father held in veal protest

By Michael Hornsby and Philip Webster

MORE *than 40 people were* arrested yesterday at Coventry airport as the airlift of calves to the Continent resumed *amid furious protests from* animal rights activists. The father and sister of Jill Phipps, the woman who was crushed *to death when she fell under* the wheels of a lorry delivering calves to the airport, were among *those arrested.*

In the Commons a row erupted as a filibuster by Tory MPs prevented debate on a Bill banning the export of calves *to countries where the* animals are reared in ways that are outlawed in Britain.

At Coventry protesters *broke through the airport* perimeter fence and ran onto the runway apron in an attempt to stop a cargo aircraft *carrying nearly* 100 calves taking off for Amsterdam. The police said the protesters would be charged *with offences* including assaulting police officers, public disorder and criminal trespass. The *resumption of flights came* only two days after Ms Phipps's death.

As the Coventry route reopened, Dyfed county councillors rejected a Farmers' Union of Wales request to use Haver*fordwest airport for the export* of calves.

In the Commons, Eric Martlew, Labour MP for Car*lisle, called for the resignation* of William Waldegrave, the Agriculture Minister, after seeing his private member's Bill scuppered by *what he* called the most disgraceful display of time-wasting he had seen. The Bill drops to the bottom of *backbench business* and is unlikely to reappear.

Father arrested, page 5

Labour stops widow bonus

Labour MPs, protesting about the failure of the Disabled Persons Bill, "shouted down" a private member's *Bill to give widows a share in* a £10 million bonus from the Lloyds Bank takeover of the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society .... Page 21

US sanctions on Chinese piracy

America will announce today *trade sanctions against China* for its failure to tackle the widespread piracy of films, software and music. The Clin*ton Administration signalled* that it would impose 100 per cent tariffs on $1 billion-worth of imports .... Page 13

Supersonic car

An *RAF* pilot *is hoping to become the first person to* drive a car at 850mph and break the sound barrier

Car 95 supplement

Lawyer accuses peers of taking cash for questions

By Arthur Leathley, political correspondent

THE House of Lords was embroiled in the cash-for-questions controversy *last* night after a senior peer accused colleagues of taking "substantial *sums*" as *payment for putting questions to* ministers.

Four peers were accused of failing to declare cash *payments and other benefits,* breaching the code of "personal honour" which has existed in the Lords for centuries.

Lord Lester of Herne Hill, a Liberal Democrat peer and a human rights barrister, said that a commercial company *had disclosed that it had given* cash to peers and MPs but that they had not been declared. The allegations *sparked calls for Lord Nolan's* committee into standards in public life to investigate the behaviour of peers as well as MPs. Jack Straw, the shadow home secretary, called on Lord Nolan to *investigate* "these *very serious allegations*" and urged Lord Lester to make a formal complaint. Lord Lester *said he had pressed his client* to identify the peers but he would not.

He refused *to discuss his memorandum* to a committee investigating declaration of peers' interests. But Lord *Marsh, member of the Lords* sub-committee on declaration and registration of members' interests, said: "We do have *villains in our midst.*"

The Commons was embroiled in the cash for questions controversy when Graham Riddick and David Tredinnick, Tory backbenchers, were accused of being prepared to accept £1,000 each to table *questions.* The allegations are being investigated.

Elliot Morley, a Labour front-bench spokesman, said: "The *House of Lords is an* even greater hot bed of vested interest than the House of Commons."

Lester: says peers broke code of personal honour

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Irish Premier says peace creates conditions where concessions are possible

Bruton tells Major to think again on IRA prisoners

By Nicholas Watt
and Philip Webster

Bruton: accused of folly

THE Irish Prime Minister called on Britain yesterday to release its share of terrorist prisoners after Dublin freed five members of the IRA.

Tory backbenchers and Unionists immediately denounced John Bruton's remarks and the Government made clear that there would be no amnesty for terrorists held in Britain. The Northern Ireland Office said: "Those convicted in the courts must serve their sentence according to the law."

This was followed by further reassurance to the Unionists last night from John Major, who declared that that he would not be a "persuader" for a united Ireland. The Prime Minister used a speech to the rightwing Conservative Way Forward to try to calm Unionist fears raised by the disclosure by The Times this week of parts of the draft framework document on the future of the Province.

He promised that the people of Northern Ireland would not be forced out of the Union against their will. "They have a constitutional guarantee. For my part I cherish the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland's part in it. So I take the view that it is not for the Government to tell the people of Northern Ireland what their future should be. It is for the people of Northern Ireland to decide."

At Dublin's Forum for Peace and Reconciliation yesterday, Mr Bruton said it would be helpful if Britain reconsidered its policy. "It builds confidence when people see that the abandonment of violence brings rewards for families who are separated from their loved ones."

He defended the decision to release the five IRA prisoners yesterday. They included Pamela Kane, 30, the only woman IRA prisoner in the republic, who was convicted of armed robbery and jailed for ten years in 1990. She was not due to be released until 1997.

Mr Bruton said: "These are people have served the substantial bulk of their sentences. Obviously, the fact that we are now enjoying peace and there is no violence creates conditions where these things are possible."

Peter Robinson, deputy leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, said he was appalled that Mr Bruton had allowed IRA terrorists out early to rejoin "their comrades in arms" and, even worse, that he had called on Britain to follow his folly.

In spite of the Government's assertion that it would not follow Mr Bruton's example, Michael Mates, a former Northern Ireland Security Minister, said he believed that terrorist prisoners serving life sentences would be freed early, if the ceasefire held. He made clear, however, that they were not political prisoners and could only be released by the judicial system.

At the top security Maze prison yesterday an IRA bomber was attacked by loyalist inmates. Sean Kelly, who has just begun a 25-year sentence for the Shankhill Road fish shop bombing, needed stitches for head and face injuries.

Pamela Kane, an IRA member jailed for ten years in 1990. Yesterday she was freed as part of Mr Bruton's effort to build "confidence in the abandonment of violence"

Birt attacks 'sneering, confrontational' interviewers

By Alexandra Frean
Media Correspondent

Birt: "cool judgment" needed

THE media are turning political coverage into a "national soap opera" in which rational debate is drowned by "a cacophony of disputation", John Birt, Director-General of the BBC, said last night.

In an unusually brutal analysis of the role of his own organisation and its print and broadcasting rivals, Mr Birt criticised overbearing interviewers who "sneer disdainfully at their interviewees".

He added, however, that politicians were also responsible for the increasingly confrontational and sensational tone of reporting. "Sometimes the print media, broadcasting and Parliament all combine together and offer the spectacle of a feeding frenzy — a lather of indignation, fury and hyperbole — in which it is difficult to exercise cool and measured judgment," he told 300 politicians, media figures and business executives at Trinity College, Dublin, in the third annual lecture sponsored by Irish Independent Newspapers.

His comments may strike a chord with members of the public who have expressed concern over the tone of more assertive interviewers. But the speech is likely to raise the hackles of journalists inside and outside the corporation who feel that a tough line is necessary when questioning politicians with sophisticated media skills. Many BBC journalists in particular believe that they have made strenuous efforts to be courteous since the BBC governors called for more polite interviewing 18 months ago.

John Humphrys, a presenter on Radio 4's *Today* programme, said last night: "Many politicians are highly trained in how not to answer questions. There is no doubt that listeners and viewers do want questions answered. Our job is to be persistent without being bullying."

A survey commissioned by the BBC last year found that audiences were far more concerned that interviewers were letting politicians get away with not giving full answers than they were about questioners being discourteous.

Mr Birt's remarks about politicians alienating the public by using airtime "to indulge in sterile debate", may anger the political Establishment. Many MPs feel that the speed of mass communications and the demand for "soundbite" reactions often force them to make policy on the hoof or to fudge issues.

Mr Birt urged the news media to cover long-term as well as short-term issues and to provide background discussion. Journalists should also avoid giving more weight to personalities and rivalries than to policies.

John Birt's speech, page 16

Bottomley ordered to appear in court

By Marianne Curphey

THE Health Secretary has been ordered to appear before a Crown Court judge to explain why there are no beds in a secure hospital for a woman described as a potential killer.

Virginia Bottomley has been sent a witness summons by Judge Thorpe to appear in court next Friday. The judge said it was "quite unacceptable" that the 24-year-old woman should have been held at Holloway Prison rather than taken to hospital where doctors could have assessed her condition.

Judge Thorpe issued the summons as Sharon Towes, of Crawley, West Sussex, made her seventh court appearance since her arrest last April after stabbing Henry O'Rawe, a council worker. She admitted malicious wounding.

Towes first appeared before Judge Thorpe on August 11. The judge remanded her in custody to Holloway and ordered that she be transferred to a psychiatric ward for reports. Although she made monthly court appearances, no bed was found.

Mrs Bottomley's office was warned on Wednesday that a summons would be issued if no bed was found.

The Lord Chancellor's Department said that if Mrs Bottomley had received a personal witness summons she was expected appear in person. Failure to attend would be regarded as contempt of court. The Health Department said the summons had been received and was being studied by legal advisers.

THE SUNDAY TIMES
Little Lord Orson
by Simon Callow

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Penalised drivers may face re-test

Drivers who accumulate six penalty points within two years of passing their driving test would be forced to display L-plates again under a backbench Bill that received strong government support in the Commons yesterday (Jonathan Prynn writes).

Michael Clark, Conservative MP for Rochford, said his Road Traffic (New Drivers) Bill, given an unopposed Commons second reading, would clamp down on dangerous young drivers. Although the Bill would apply to any newly qualified driver it is aimed at mainly 17 to 21-year-olds, who are involved in 25 per cent of fatal road accidents, resulting in 1,000 deaths a year. Drivers who get six points within two years of passing their test would get their licence back only after retaking the test. A speeding offence is punishable by three to six points.

Clegg claim 'was a lie'

A former civilian clerk in the Royal Ulster Constabulary who claimed to have seen a file on the case of paratrooper Private Lee Clegg marked "no prosecution", has admitted that she was lying. The RUC said yesterday that, after an investigation, the former employee said she had seen no such file and expressed regret for the trouble she had caused. Clegg was jailed for life in May 1993 for shooting Karen Reilly, 18, a passenger in a stolen car.

Surgeon reinstated

Tahir Bhatti, the surgeon suspended after allowing a nurse to carry out part of an appendectomy at Treliske Hospital, Truro, has been officially reprimanded by Royal Cornwall Hospital Trust but allowed to keep his surgical registrar post. The nurse, Valerie Tomlinson, was earlier given a final written warning. The General Medical Council has still to decide whether to bring proceedings against Mr Bhatti for serious professional misconduct.

Four-month ban for vet

A vet, banned from practising for four months for allowing two foreign assistants to vaccinate a cat that he was too busy to treat himself, says he faces business losses of £30,000. Both the juniors, one Dutch and the second Irish, employed by Robert Plenderleith, who runs four surgeries in North Lincolnshire, were qualified in their own countries but had not been registered with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in Britain.

Indecency vicar jailed

A married vicar who admitted indecently assaulting boys aged 12 to 15 was jailed for two years at Chester yesterday. The Rev James Miller, 58, already had a conviction for gross indecency when he was appointed to his parish at Widnes, Cheshire. After yesterday's sentence the Right Rev David Sheppard, the Anglican Bishop of Liverpool, said the first offence had not involved children but added: "I regret very deeply indeed the damage done to the boys."

Star Trek gains currency

A British company has struck a ten dollar Liberian coin with the two captains from *Star Trek*, James T. Kirk and Jean-Luc Picard, on the reverse. All profits from sales of the coin, made at the Pobjoy Mint in Sutton, Surrey, will go to Liberian charities. The release of the coin, which is legal tender in Liberia, has been timed to coincide with the British premiere of the seventh Star Trek film *Star Trek Generations*.

Travel firm collapses

Medchoice Holidays, the tour company formerly called Yugotours, ceased trading yesterday. Customers will be able to finish their holidays and those who have booked will get their money back. The Civil Aviation Authority said it had revoked the licence of the London-based company, which changed its operations when unrest broke out in Yugoslavia.

Cambridge choice

Cambridge University has appointed Professor Sandra Dawson, left, to be director of the new £13 million Judge Institute of Management Studies from October. Professor Dawson, 48, who is married with three children, gained a first in history and sociology at Keele and spent 25 years at Imperial College London, where she became professor of organisational behaviour in 1990.

Titmuss Sainer Dechert

A report (February 1) incorrectly stated that the law firm Titmuss Sainer Dechert was acting for the Maxwell brothers. The firm in fact has never acted for any defendant in connection with the pending proceedings and has not received any fees from the legal aid fund. We apologise for the mistake.

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Storms hinder rescue operation for two climbers split from their party

Fears growing for women students lost on Ben Nevis

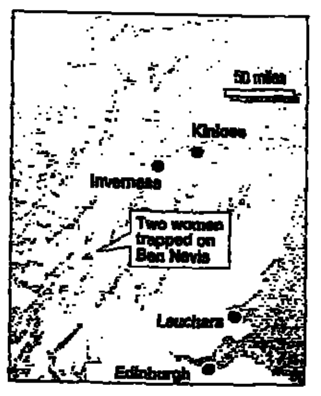
By Gillian Bowditch
Scotland Correspondent

TWO woman students were spending a second night in driving snow on Ben Nevis after a rescue operation was called off when the weather deteriorated.

Iona Roden, 22, and Zoe Green, 20, who are experienced climbers, are members of a party of 15 from the University of Central Lancashire, Preston, who separated from their companions on Thursday to climb Glover's Chimney in the Tower Ridge area of the mountain. The other 13 young climbers walked off the mountain but as darkness fell the two had still not made it back.

At first it was hoped that the pair had spent Thursday night in the bothy at the top of the mountain. Rescuers trying to reach the hut were driven back several times by blinding snow storms and 70mph winds. When they got there it was found to be empty.

Last night Rhoda Roden, mother of Iona, said: "We are praying that she has managed to dig herself into a snow hole. But I really don't hold out much hope at all." Mrs Roden, said Iona, a fine art student, took up mountaineering nearly three years ago.



"She recently decided she would devote her life to mountaineering and rock-climbing. She adored the freedom and the beauty of the landscape.

"She met a lot of new friends and was determined to work professionally on the mountains. Kim knew all about the dangers and she had witnessed plenty of close shaves, but nothing was going to stop her. We can only hope she has been given the opportunity to use the survival skills she has learnt."

The family of Zoe Green, a first-year journalism student, set off for Scotland from their home in Sheffield. Her brother Peter was comforting his mother Lesley at her home in Sheffield. He said: "Zoe is an experienced climber, a climb leader. I am sure she knows Ben Nevis well and she has been well trained in what to do in severe weather conditions."

A helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth airlifted rescuers to the mountain early yesterday. Members of Lochaber mountain rescue team were joined by climbers from RAF Kinloss mountain rescue team and search and rescue dogs.

More than a hundred rescuers have been lined up for a full-scale search but there is concern about the ability of the two women to weather a second night.

Chief Inspector John MacFadzean said: "There is natural speculation that if they were fit and able, they would have tried to draw attention to themselves by now. But the fact that they did not have flares gives us a further glimmer that they may be trapped somewhere. It is too early to give up hope, but obviously as time passes, the chances of finding survivors reduces."

A spokesman for the university said the two students were members of the university's mountaineering team. "Both are experienced mountaineers, well equipped for winter climbing. They are more than capable of making the climb and are both well trained in survival techniques," he said.

Zoe Green: she and Iona Roden, both described as experienced mountaineers, had separated from the rest of the student party to climb an area of Ben Nevis

British bride dies on yacht voyage

By Andrew Pierce

A BRITISH yachtsman who buried his wife at sea after drifting for two months in the Indian Ocean will be interviewed by police when he arrives in Australia today.

Ashok Baljoresai married his London-born wife, Pamela Thompson, a month before they set sail in his 30ft yacht *Dream Weaver*. He was rescued a week ago in the Indian Ocean by a Russian cargo ship.

Perth police have radioed ahead to the ship, *Anatoly Vasilyev*, and will be waiting at the quayside when she arrives today.

Mr Baljoresai said that he buried his wife at sea on January 12 after she died after stomach problems and dehydration. The couple, who were married in Singapore in September, were sailing back to their home in Mauritius after their honeymoon.

"I decided to bury my wife at sea because it was too distressing to keep her body on the yacht," he said. The voyage was expected to take a month but Mr Baljoresai said they were caught in a storm, the yacht's mast broke and they drifted for two months.

British consular officials will also be in Perth to meet Mr Baljoresai, 53, a former laboratory technician at Barking Hospital, east London. He moved to England in 1967 and returned to his native Mauritius in 1988 after the break-up of his first marriage.

NEXT WEEK IN THE TIMES

Win two seats for the Five Nations England v Scotland match at Twickenham in Times Sport, on **Monday**

Take a friend to a concert for 20p, on **Tuesday**

Designer style at high street prices on the fashion page, on **Wednesday**

Star Trek: Generations and other new films, on **Thursday**

The Valerie Grove interview, on **Friday**

Sex club hostess convicted of blackmailing boy

By Alan Hamilton

A SOHO sex club hostess who tried to charge a schoolboy £500 for a can of cola was found guilty of blackmail at the Old Bailey yesterday.

A jury took under two hours to return a unanimous verdict against Clair Malone, 20, who had threatened to tell the 16-year-old's parents where he had been unless he paid up. Mr Recorder Chadwin, QC, adjourned the case until February 28 and released Malone on bail, saying she could face a custodial offence.

The schoolboy, who lives with his parents in Kingston-upon-Thames, and cannot be named for legal reasons, was in Soho, prepared to spend £30 on his first blue movie, the court heard. Malone had lured him into the club where she worked. The schoolboy was walking past the Erotica bar when she approached him and told him he could come in for £3.

The boy said in evidence that he expected to see a striptease or peep show, but after half an hour had seen nothing except Malone and another woman, who asked him if he wanted a drink. He ordered a cola and was told that it would cost £4.50. But Malone later produced a bill for £500, and told the boy he would have to pay. He was searched for money, and made to give his name, age and address.

Club staff took him to a local bank and forced him to withdraw money; the bank would give him a maximum of £114. Malone said that if he did not pay the balance by the next Saturday, she would tell his parents where he had been.

The boy's mother subsequently discovered the £114 withdrawal from his bank account and took him to a local police station, where he confessed the full story. Police yesterday praised his courage in bringing the case to court, and disclosed that eight similar cases, involving 20 defendants, were pending.

Malone, of Piccadilly, who had denied blackmail, was told by the judge: "If you had been somewhat older, even in spite of your previous good character, I would have imposed a prison sentence on you. I have not decided yet whether it is possible to avoid sending you to prison."

Malone: demanded that boy pay £500 for a cola

Manager shot dead by shop robber

By Tim Jones

A YOUNG supermarket manager was shot dead yesterday morning as he arrived to open his store.

David Beesley, 28, from Stockport, was found near the safe in his office at the Kwik Save store in West Didsbury, Manchester. He had a gunshot wound to the head.

Alan Foulkes, Kwik Save's divisional director, said the staff were devastated by the murder. Colleagues described Mr Beesley as "the best boss ever". Mr Foulkes said: "He had a very promising career in front of him. He was a good manager and well liked. It is a tragedy.

"Violence is an escalating problem that all retailers have to share. We have always taken measures against it and will continue to do so."

Police said the motive appeared to be robbery but could not confirm if anything had been stolen. Det Supt Bernard Rees said: "Somebody either entered the store with Mr Beesley or went in soon afterwards and shot him." He appealed for witnesses.

Mr Beesley had been due to attend a party today to celebrate his father's birthday. His brother John said: "David lived for his job. He also believed in what was right. Why was he killed like this? For a matter of a few pounds or for £20,000, does it matter? Is it worth a life?"

Police are investigating a possible link with a £12,000 armed robbery about a week ago in nearby Rusholme.

Scots border hue and cry restored after 300 years

By Gillian Bowditch

A LEGAL loophole that allowed English villains to escape the law by crossing the Scottish border was closed yesterday after almost 300 years.

In the past, police lost all their powers as soon as they crossed the border. The most that they could do was to make a citizen's arrest. But the loophole, which dated from the Treaty of Union in 1707, has been shut off under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994. Police in Scotland and England will now be able to pursue and arrest across the border.

Before 1707 wronged parties were allowed to cross the border in pursuit of their quarry. In 1563 an agreement drawn up between Scotland and England permitted "lawful trod with hound and horn, with hue and cry and all other manner of fresh pursuit" across the border.

There was, however, one slight obstacle. The pursuer had to indicate his "open and honest" intention by carrying a burning turf on his lancepoint and he had to announce himself to the first person he encountered. The agreement was not included in the Treaty of Union.

In practice English police do not screech to a halt at the border and watch criminals disappear into the mists but they have had to rely on the help of their Scottish colleagues, and vice versa.

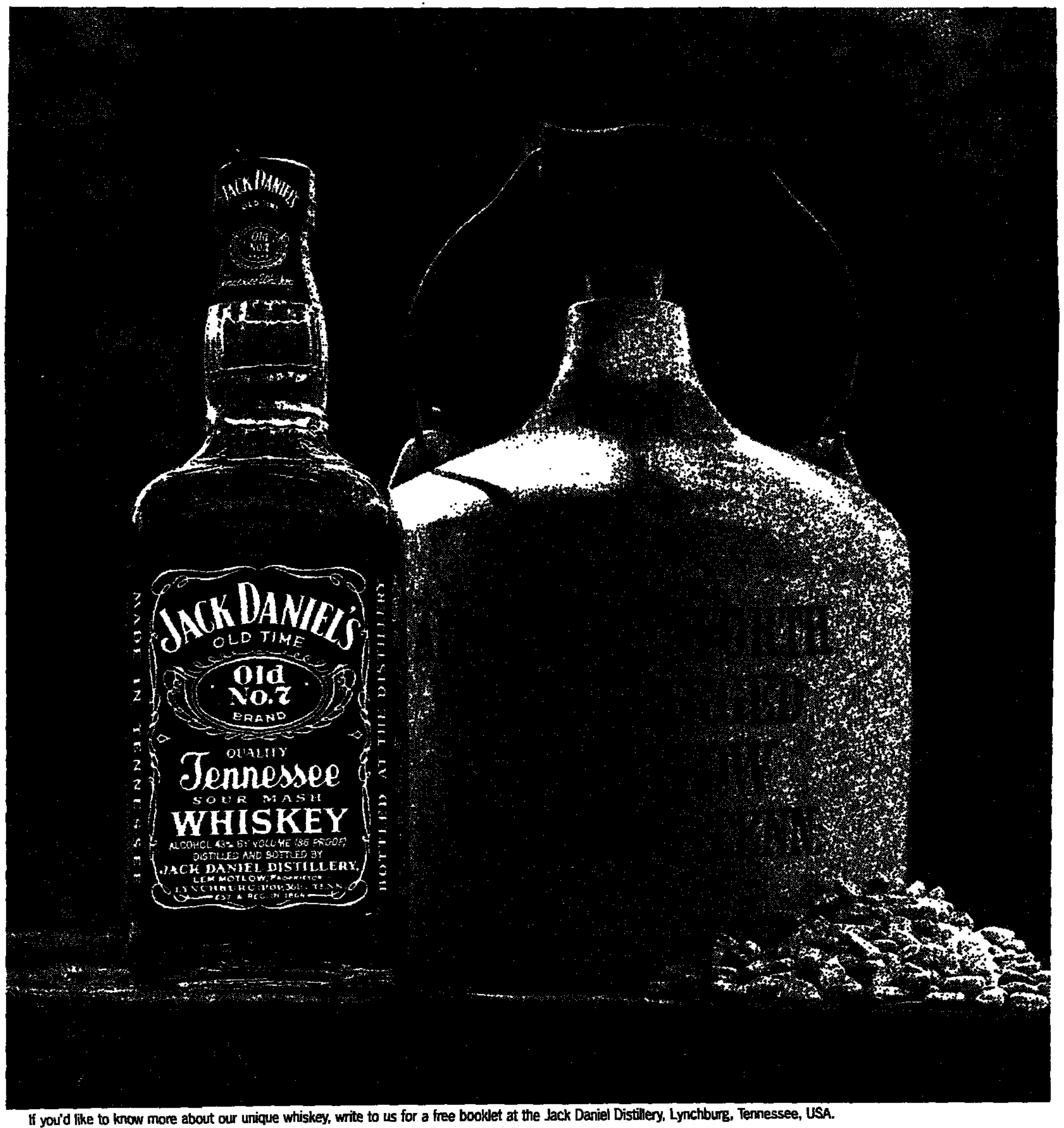
Inspector Frank Bewley of the Cumbria force, whose research led to the new powers being included in the Act, said: "There has always been very good cross-border co-operation but sometimes operations have succeeded only on a wing and a prayer."

He says one high-profile armed chase that started in Lancashire involved three forces. Lancashire police initially followed the getaway car on the M6. Once on the A74, the car was tailed by the Cumbria force. When it was clear the car was going across the border Dumfries and Galloway police were alerted.

The armed criminals, who had been firing at police from the car, were eventually stopped near Lockerbie but police had to obtain a warrant from a JP in Lancashire before making the arrest.

The new Act will allow police officers in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland to execute arrest warrants in each others' countries without obtaining permission from the local judiciary. It will also allow them to arrest and detain suspects in each other's countries and chief constables to call on cross-border forces for help in major operations.

In the aftermath of the Lockerbie disaster, officers from Cumbria spent over a week in Scotland helping Dumfries and Galloway police but they had no strict powers to gather evidence.



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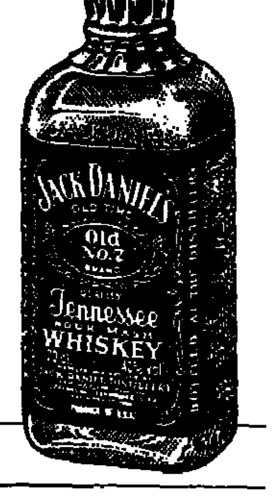

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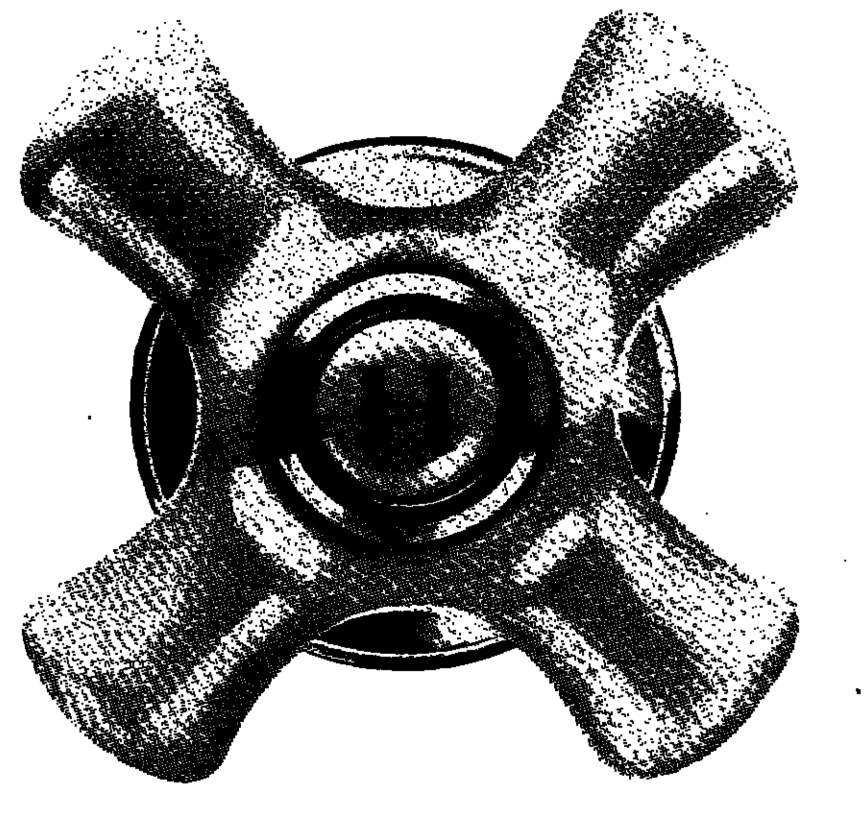

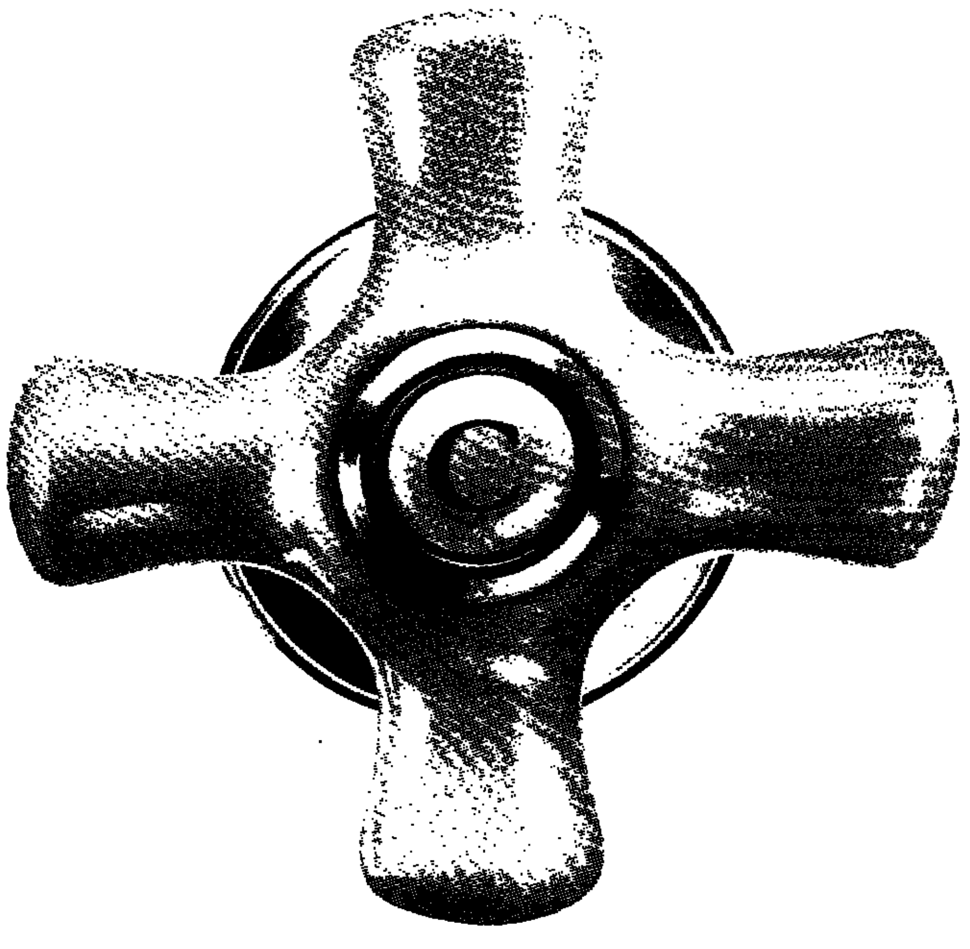

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Here are some other details you'll need to know. Fares are non-changeable and non-refundable. Tickets must be purchased within 48 hours of making reservations and must be purchased by 10 February. Fares valid for travel Monday to Thursday inclusive. Other travel days available at additional cost. Return travel must be completed by midnight 30 April. Other low fares available 17 April until 26 May. Seats are limited. Fares not available on all flights. Seasonal service applies to ski destinations. Fares are subject to change without notice. Fares do not include government and departure taxes. International fares are subject to government approval. Saturday night minimum stay and one month maximum stay requirements apply. The following flight restrictions apply no travel from London to Port of Spain, Trinidad 12-26 February or from Port of Spain to London 1-6 March, no travel from London to the remainder of the Caribbean 17-19 February or from the Caribbean to London 24-26 February, and no travel to or from Mexico 16-25 April. Certain destinations require overnight stop en route.

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Death of activist prompts violent protests across the country against export of live calves

Father of crushed veal protester arrested at airport

By Emma Wilkins, Michael Hornsby and Philip Webster

Justin Timson at Coventry airport yesterday where protesters, above, ran onto the runway in a vain attempt to stop a flight of calves

THE father of Jill Phipps, the animal rights protester who died in a demonstration earlier this week, was arrested yesterday as he tried to prevent further exports of veal calves from Coventry airport.

Robert Phipps, 70, was one of several demonstrators who broke through a police cordon and ran onto the runway. The group was protesting against the reintroduction of flights, which were suspened on Wednesday after the death of Ms Phipps.

Mr Phipps was arrested just minutes after the inquest into his daughter's death was opened and adjourned at Coventry Magistrates' Court. The inquest was told that Ms Phipps, 31, the mother of a nine-year-old boy, died instantly when she was crushed beneath the wheels of a delivery lorry. David Sarginson, the coroner, said a post-mortem examination showed that her spine had been snapped. He gave the cause of death as severe crushing.

A fresh Commons attempt yesterday to curb the export trade in live calves was blocked amid furious protests and calls for the resignation of William Waldegrave, the Agriculture Minister. A Bill drawn up by Eric Martlew, Labour MP for Carlisle, to ban exports if animals were housed or fed in a manner that would be unlawful in Britain, was not reached as Conservatives made lengthy speeches on other measures.

As a private member's Bill it would have had no chance of becoming law without the Government's support. However, Labour MPs were angered that the filibustering action of the Tories, who included Mr Waldegrave's parliamentary aide Oliver Heald, prevented a debate even starting on the Bill.

In Dyfed, county councillors rejected a request by the Farmers' Union of Wales to export calves from Haverfordwest airport after being told that up to £120,000 a day would have to spent on providing police security.

The death of Ms Phipps, which is being investigated by the Police Complaints Authority, prompted several protests across the country. A group of 40 activists attacked the home of Christopher Barrett-Jolley, managing director of Phoenix Aviation, who is responsible for the commercial flights of veal calves from Coventry. Windows were smashed at Mr Barrett-Jolley's home near Rugby. One officer was slightly injured when he tried to arrest one of the activists, many of whom wore scarves and balaclavas.

Justin Timson, 26, Ms Phipps's boyfriend, said after her inquest was adjourned yesterday that she would have approved of the protests. "She was all for violence against property. The incident at Barrett-Jolley's house was a spontaneous outburst of violence. It gave him a message and he should take that message and stop the flights now."

More than 50 riot police were at Coventry airport for the arrival of the delivery lorry yesterday with 98 calves. About 25 protesters were at the gates, but many others had gathered outside the magistrates' court in the city centre for the inquest.

Mr Phipps was arrested with seven other protesters who were trying to block the runway where a cargo plane loaded with the calves was awaiting take-off to Amsterdam. The flight was delayed for ten minutes as police cleared the runway. Helen Lear, 28, a protester, said: "Bob was one of around 15 people who raced onto the runway but he was grabbed by two police officers.

"Bob has suffered terribly since Jill died. The whole family is heartbroken and this is the last thing they need. He was supposed to have open heart surgery on Tuesday, so this terrible trauma is hardly going to help him."

Phoenix Aviation said it was aware that the decision to reintroduce flights so soon after Ms Phipps's death was controversial. "The company and its associates have now had time to consider the issues and have decided to continue flights," a spokesman said. "We hope that any protest will continue peacefully."

Police and protesters clashing yesterday

Class warriors accused of infiltrating animal lobby

By Emma Wilkins

Barrett-Jolley: flight chief's house attacked

ANIMAL rights demonstrations at ports and airports are being infiltrated by violent militants intent on criminal activity, a senior police officer said yesterday.

Mick Brewer, acting Deputy Chief Constable of Warwickshire Police, said that peaceful protests at Coventry airport against the export of veal calves had been sabotaged by activists who had their own aims.

After the death of Jill Phipps, 31, who fell beneath the wheels of a delivery lorry at the airport on Wednesday, 40 hooded activists attacked the home of Christopher Barrett-Jolley, managing director of Phoenix Aviation, who is responsible for flying veal calves to the Continent.

"I think it is clear that we are seeing an influx of criminally-minded people who are operating off the back of a peaceful demonstration," Mr Brewer said. "After the tragic accident, our officers began to notice new faces in the crowd at the airport. Their technique is often to hide behind the peaceful demonstrators and egg them on."

Mr Brewer has discussed the policing of demonstrations with his opposite number at Devon and Cornwall Police. Violence has broken out at Plymouth docks. "I think we are being targeted by the same type of individuals," Mr Brewer said.

"It is a case of them taking what is a current issue and using it to go about their criminal business. We see them at hunts, at poll tax riots, at Criminal Justice Bill demonstrations. They are setting out to have a go at the Establishment.

"The situation now makes policing very difficult. We were dealing with peaceful protest but the situation has developed into hostile crowds — that's the way these people work," he said.

While activists were once content to liberate beagles from medical laboratories, recent years have seen incendiary devices in fur departments of shops and bomb attacks on scientists.

Since its foundation in 1972, the Animal Liberation Front has claimed responsibility for a number of violent attacks on supermarkets and individuals. An ALF booklet, first circulated five years ago, contains advice on how to make a complex timed incendiary device. The Animal Rights National Index, formed by police in 1986 under the control of Special Branch, recorded 3,073 crimes between 1990 and 1992 ranging from hunt sabotage to attacks on butchers' shops. Figures for the first eight months of 1994, record 585 incidents, mainly of criminal damage, which caused £5.4 million damage. There were 29 incendiary attacks over the same period.

Detectives believe the ALF is now closely linked with other groups, including Class War, which was involved in the Trafalgar Square poll tax riots in 1990.

Undercover police officers have infiltrated some units of activists. In 1991 an alleged plot to contaminate Lucozade was foiled when police acted before the bottles reached supermarket shelves. SmithKline Beecham, the manufacturer, said it had been a target because its drugs division involves experimentation on animals.

Boots the Chemist has been attacked several times. Security was stepped up in all branches after an arson attack on a Boots warehouse in Rochdale. In December 1993, three Boots branches were firebombed in Cornwall.

Department stores have also been attacked, with the most recent incidents being a series of fire bombings on the Isle of Wight. University research establishments have also been targets for animal rights activists, with attacks at Oxford, Surrey, and Edinburgh universities.

Last December, Keith Mann, 28, a leading ALF member, was sentenced to 14 years' imprisonment. He admitted possessing explosive substances, attempted arson, criminal damage and incitement.

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Pilots must pay £75,000 to learn size of award

By Harvey Elliott, air correspondent

TWO hundred former Dan-Air pilots, who last week won their case for wrongful dismissal, will have to pay another £75,000 in legal fees before they learn how much compensation they are entitled to receive.

Captain Delphine Gray-Fisk, who formed an action group and fought for more than two years to gain compensation from British Airways, said she was stunned when told of the new legal costs yesterday.

"We thought the whole thing had been wrapped up and that the final hearing would simply tell us how much compensation we would receive," she said. "But when we met our lawyers they gave us a written estimate asking for a further £75,000 just to pursue the case to its conclusion. Our members are far from wealthy and many have spent every penny they have in fighting this case.

"We just hope that we can convince the lawyers to accept payment after the compensation has been fixed, but we have to accept that it might not be the maximum of £10,000, even though we are pretty confident that it will."

The industrial tribunal has the power to award up to £10,000 per claimant plus a further £5,000 if certain conditions are met. Their deliberations are held in three parts — the main hearing, an outline of the reasons for the decision and the settlement.

The pilots, who were sacked with redundancy payments averaging only £4,000 when BA took over Dan-Air, complained that they had been unfairly dismissed and that other staff had been treated far more generously.

The tribunal agreed and ruled completely in their favour. The settlement is due to be announced at the end of this month but first lawyers must make their presentations to the tribunal. "It seems they have to do a lot of preliminary work with discovery of documents and all kinds of other activities which, they say, will cost us £75,000 more," Captain Gray-Fisk said.

"We have already spent more than £300,000 on fighting the action and there is nothing left in the kitty. To get a little bit of justice is proving to be almost a financial impossibility."

The pilots are still planning to take BA to the High Court, where damages for breach of contract and wrongful dismissal could be limitless, but that action might cost £500,000. "The group is very determined. They have won the point of principle but I am sure that if they were able to do so they would vote to go on and try to win what they are convinced is their due, and that is re-instatement and re-engagement," Captain Gray-Fisk said.

British Airways insists it will fight any action taken by the pilots in the High Court. "We have been trying to talk to the pilots in the action group for the last two years to try to settle their claim," a spokesman said. "These are the last people sticking out against what we are convinced is a reasonable settlement."

Gray-Fisk: claimants "are far from wealthy"

From battleship to bus pass: the seadog who stayed on past normal retiring age

Navy's oldest sailor sheds sea boots after 47 years

By Michael Evans, defence correspondent

THE oldest man in the Royal Navy, who joined up when the British fleet ruled the waves and flogging was still technically allowed, is finally leaving the service.

Chief Petty Officer Bill Price, 64, has been in the Navy for 47 years. He joined up in 1948 when the Navy had 107 principal warships and 150,000 officers and ratings, against 55 warships and 55,600 personnel today.

CPO Price, who will end his career in March on his 65th birthday, is the last sailor to benefit from a scheme allowing senior ratings to stay on until they were 65 years old. The old seadog, who lives in Portsmouth with his wife Lillian, said yesterday: "It's a far better service to join today. The food is terrific and it certainly wasn't when I joined up. The welfare system is great and, of course, the money has gone up."

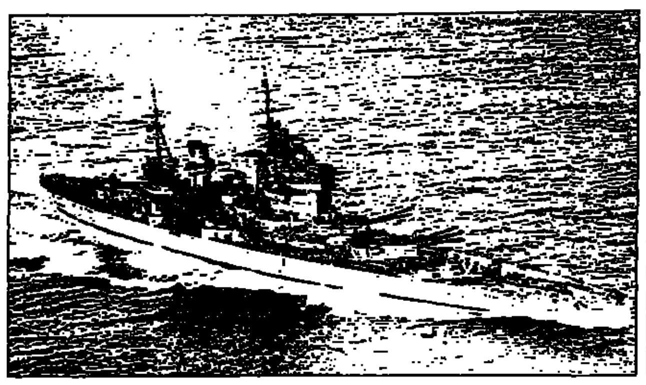
In 1948 the fleet had two battleships, four carriers, 16 cruisers, 34 destroyers, 25 frigates and 26 submarines. Today there are three carriers, 12 destroyers, 23 frigates and 17 submarines.

In practical terms, flogging of sailors was abolished in 1879 but was formally removed from the list of naval punishments in 1948. CPO Price has also seen the disappearance of the traditional tot of rum and of bell-bottoms. The biggest change was the Government's decision in 1990 to allow women to serve in warships.

He started his career at the Corsham naval training establishment in Wiltshire before serving in the battleship *King George V*. In the 1950s he was a leading hand on the flight deck of the aircraft carrier *Indomitable*. He later served in minesweepers and frigates before joining the aircraft carrier *Hermes*.

For the past 25 years, CPO Price has worked at the Portsmouth naval detention quarters. Now on leave before retirement, he said: "When I joined I had no idea I would be walking out all this time later as a pensioner. I feel proud that I have achieved a one-off."

After 22 years' service, which included the Suez campaign in 1956, he stayed on in the Navy under the so-called "promised men" scheme that allowed some senior ratings to remain serving until the age of 65. The scheme was later dropped and today most sailors leave at the age of 55.



Chief Petty Officer Bill Price, who will be 65 next month, and as he was in the battleship *King George V*, centre, when neither the money nor the food was up tp much

Women's jail 'turns shoplifters into addicts'

By Lucy Berrington

WOMEN are entering Styal Prison as shoplifters and leaving as drug addicts, according to the Chief Inspector of Prisons.

Judge Stephen Tumim's report, to be published next week, criticises the lack of treatment and counselling for addicts, a BBC report said yesterday. Judge Tumim, who inspected the Cheshire jail last summer, says 60 per cent of those injecting drugs shared needles, a practice which can spread HIV, the virus that can lead to Aids.

The Styal findings are reportedly backed by the jail's board of visitors in its own report, and by prison officers, one of whom was quoted as saying inmates were "out of their heads much of the time".

A pilot programme of compulsory random drugs-testing has been introduced in eight other jails. About 50 to 90 per cent of all prisoners use cannabis, and the abuse of harder drugs in jails is increasing. In 1993-94 there were 2,455 drugs finds in prisons.

Prison reformers yesterday claimed that compulsory drugs-testing could jeopardise a voluntary scheme for HIV testing. "The majority of people in prison smoke cannabis and they could well decide not to co-operate with HIV testing," Nick Flynn, deputy director of the Prison Reform Trust, said.

A report in the *British Medical Journal*, published today, attributes at least eight HIV transmissions to the sharing of contaminated needles and syringes at Glenochil Prison in Clackmananshire. Statisticians at the Institute of Public Health in Cambridge are planning the largest study so far, through voluntary screening.

Some reformers claimed compulsory drugs-testing would encourage prisoners to switch from cannabis to hard drugs, which are detectable in the urine for much shorter periods.

Chris Tchaikovsky, of the campaign group Women in Prison, said yesterday that compulsory testing would have "disastrous" implications for prison security and the safety of officers. "The Prison Officers' Association should boycott drugs-testing. Prison officers are in danger. They maintain a tacit consensus between officers and prisoners, but there are already signs that is breaking down."

The testing policy would add to tension arising from the recent toughening of prison regimes, she claimed. She said the problem was particularly acute at Holloway, one of the jails earmarked for the pilot scheme of compulsory testing.

The Prison Officers' Association said officers welcomed any acknowledgement of the scale of the drug problem, but were concerned that the drugs-testing was another example of the Home Secretary's "all stick and no carrot" approach to prison policy.

Motorist too blind to see roadblock

A MOTORIST who had such poor eyesight that he mistook the flashing lights of a police roadblock for an ambulance was fined £100 by Reigate magistrates yesterday.

Three police cars repeatedly signalled to Ernest Cathery, 74, to pull over during a five-mile pursuit after they saw his Ford Escort weaving from side to side. When they tried to block the retired engineer's path by parking across the road, he drove round them. He was finally stopped after they boxed him in from the front and rear.

Cathery, of Caterham, Surrey, who was suffering from cataracts, said: "I wish they had let me know earlier that they were there. I didn't know what I had done wrong." He admitted careless driving and driving with defective eyesight and said he would use the bus in future.

Machine meets man's craving for dry-cured bacon rashers

TRADITIONAL bacon is returning to breakfast tables (Robin Barnwell writes). Tired of finding shrivelled and shrunken rashers swimming in a white froth at the bottom of their frying pans, bacon lovers have long called for the dry-cured variety at an affordable price.

Supermarkets are competing to meet the growing demand for bacon not injected with water and other additives. Sales of dry-cured rashers have been rising in delicatessens, but until now it has been a luxury product, reflecting the cost of rubbing sides of pork with salt and saltpetre by hand.

The revival of real bacon has been pioneered by a factory in Cookstown, Co Tyrone with a machine method that has taken two years to perfect. Uni-Pork is able to produce dry-cured back rashers that are Sainsbury's best seller at £2.39 a lb, competing with Safeway's dry-cured unsmoked bacon at £3.39 a lb and Tesco's at £2.83.

Traditional bacon's return has been welcomed by chefs. The television cook Keith Floyd praised the market-led approach. "Any bacon that puts back the proper bacon I would support 100 per cent."

However, John Pallister, a bacon expert at the Meat and Livestock Commission, is sceptical whether the popularity of dry-cured bacon will be anything more than a passing fad. "I do not think that the industry could cope with wide-scale dry-cured treatment of bacon. It simply is not geared up to it," he said.

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Doubts raised over replacement tests by colleges to select candidates

Scrapping of entrance exam splits Oxford dons

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

OXFORD colleges may set their own tests if the university's traditional entrance examination is abolished at a meeting of admissions tutors next week.

A two-year review of the university's admissions procedures will culminate in a vote of college representatives on Thursday. If a proposal to scrap the entrance examination is accepted, many applicants are likely to face college tests as well as interviews.

Critics of the examination have been pressing for its abolition for several years because they believe it favours independent schools. But the lobby for its retention was gaining strength yesterday.

Eric Anderson, Rector of Lincoln College and former Head Master of Eton, said: "I think it is particularly ill-advised to do this at the moment, when the decline of A-level standards means that the university is usually choosing between people with three A grades. The entrance exam gives people a better chance to demonstrate real quality in their subject, regardless of the school they come from."

More than half of Oxford's undergraduates win a place through the examination, although the proportion selected on A-level results and interviews has grown in recent years. Over 70 per cent of independent school applicants choose the entrance exam.

Next week's meeting will discuss the establishment of standardised tests that admissions tutors will be able to use in addition to interviews.

Dr Anderson said abolition would entail a time-consuming process for colleges. "There will have to be more and longer interviews if they are to be as fair."

Although the demise of the examination has been predicted since Cambridge abolished its equivalent a decade ago, several colleges oppose its replacement. Michael Vaughan-Lee, admissions tutor for Christ Church, said: "I hope that the entrance exam will be retained, but it is impossible to tell. Some colleges are being very cagey."

Dr Vaughan-Lee added: "It is time that the question was resolved one way or the other. I do not think it is a matter of a state and independent schools divide. The exam may favour pupils from good schools of whatever type, but any selection process does that."

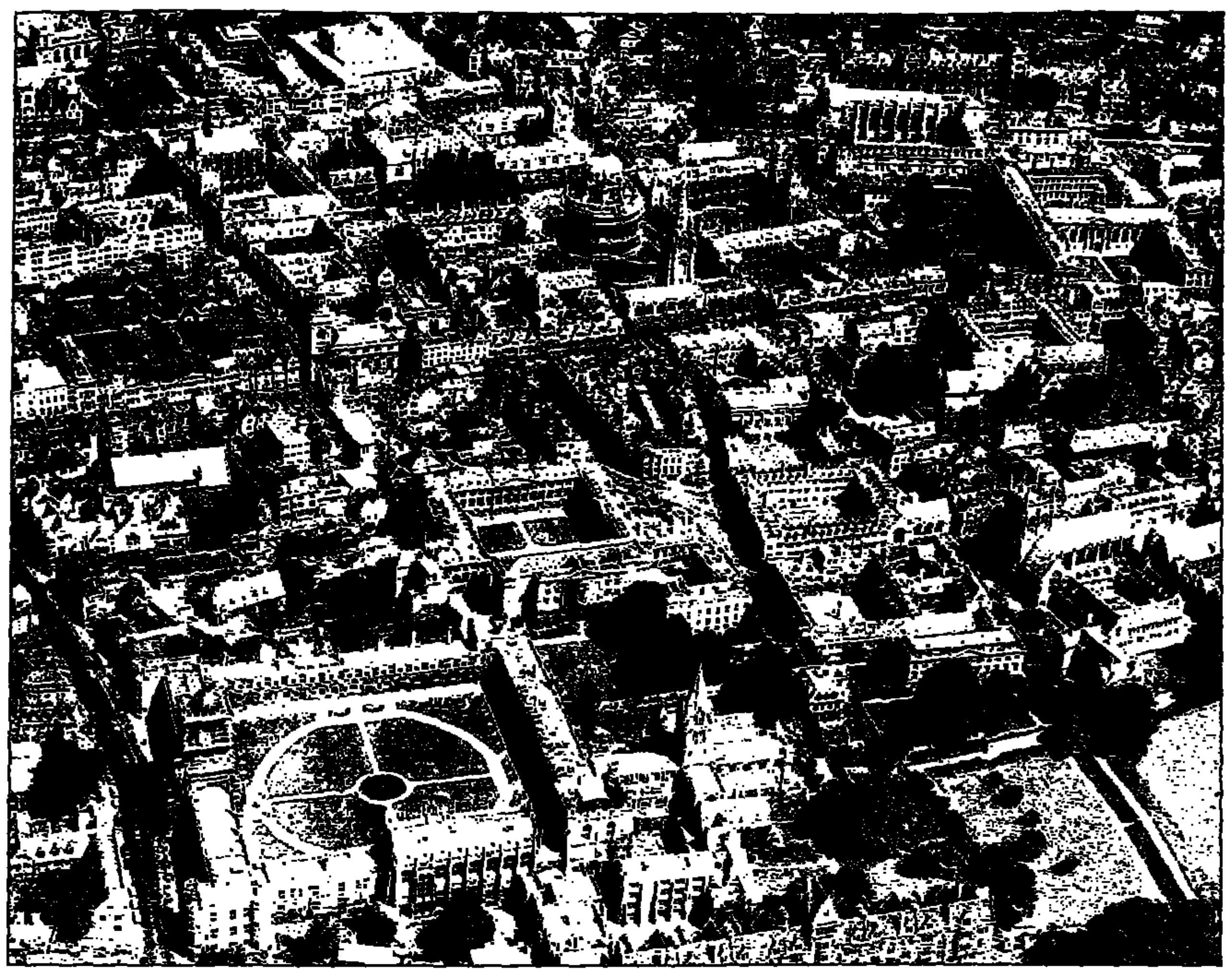
Jane Minto, Oxford's secretary for admissions, said: "The university is very concerned to attract able candidates from different types of school and background. The issue is equity and accessibility. This proposal has come forward because some people feel the entrance examination is placing them at a disadvantage."

The examination consists of two or three papers taken by pupils during the first term of their second year in the sixth form. Unlike Cambridge, which abolished its entrance examination ten years ago, Oxford still admits fewer pupils from state schools than independent schools.

Many Oxford dons are torn between a desire for the fairest possible admissions system and the practical problems of selecting students from a pool of highly qualified candidates. Colin Blakemore, Waynflete Professor of Physiology, said: "There are lots of disadvantages to the entrance exam, and on balance I would like to see it go, but without some second stage of selection it is almost like sticking in a pin. There may have to be some on-the-spot assessment of candidates if the exam is abolished."

Most heads of independent schools oppose the narrowing of entry routes to Oxford. But Martin Stephen, High Master of Manchester Grammar School, said abolition was inevitable. "I have thought for several years that you could not have just one university setting a completely different exam. My own answer would be to reinvigorate the S level."

Anderson: "Exam gives people a better chance"



Oxford colleges from the air: admissions tutors will vote on whether to scrap the university entrance exam

Long lines of scribbling pens, except for the boy who burst into tears

OXFORD'S entrance exams have foxed many a would-be graduate with their cleverly worded questions designed to challenge an imaginative brain rather than one trained to soak up knowledge like a sponge (Nick Nutall writes).

Many graduates remember writing essays based on a one word question such as "Compassion". Others, sitting biology exams, recall teasers such as "What biological problems would Jack's Beanstalk have encountered?". Some remember the exams with affection, others with horror.

The Oxford entrance exam was introduced in 1963, though groups of colleges had set their own before that. Peter Ainsworth, the Conservative MP for Surrey East, read English literature and language at Lincoln College in the 1970s. "I remember the exam very well. It was the most enjoyable one I ever took. It was a great relief from O and A levels where there was an enormous concentration on fact and memory and regurgitation," he said.

"The Oxford exam seemed to test knowledge and was wider and more interesting. It tested creativity. Although I would not want to take it again, you would have to have extremely good reasons to change this. Mr Ainsworth recalled one question that he said came up regularly. "It was along the lines of 'Writers in the latter day Roman Empire cited disturbances at chariot races as indicative of a collapsing culture. Does this have any relevance today?' So people would write about football hooligans ... but not the House of Lords or the House of Commons, of course."

Julian Anderson, director-general of the Country Landowners Association, studied science. "I remember the exam well. It took place in Keeble College Hall. The hall is built of brick, rather ugly brick, and this has absorbed the smells of all the meals ever cooked," he said. "The Keeble clock is also one of the most long chiming and tedious in the world. So, if you are not doing terribly well you are deeply conscious of time and smell." He said everywhere he looked there were lines of scribbling pens, except for the applicant next to him who spent his time screwing up paper before bursting into tears. "The pressure was collosal and there was a trick in the question. The paper tested if you could see the swerve. His was: "What is the value of a hypothesis once largely believed but subsequently discredited?"

Mr Anderson said the value of the exam, which was "nerve-racking if you were doing well and sickening if you were doing badly", was that it valued an intelligent stab. "The interview that goes with it was also very important ... they are looking to how your mind tackles it. The exam sorts out not how brillantly you have crammed but if you have the beginnings of a brain that can think its way out of corners."

THE QUESTIONS

Oxford's entrance examination has always been considered a more wide-ranging and sophisticated test of *subject knowledge than* A level. This is a selection of questions from the 1993 examination in history:

☐ **Is it true that the person who controls the past controls the present?**

☐ ***You have been asked to advise the Government* about the place of history in the school curriculum. Write a paper, setting out and defending your proposals.**

☐ **What can we learn about a society from its jokes?**

☐ ***Can art and/or music ever be wholly abstract?***

☐ **Why has the history of Greece and Rome been a compelling fascination to subsequent historical epochs?**

☐ **Has the role of women in past societies been *mainly determined by nature or convention?***

Leading article, page 17

Credo

A patron saint to suit the Euro-sceptics

Michael Walsh

IN THE concluding chapter of *Saints*, Lord Longford says "the total number of canonised saints is uncertain but it runs to several thousand". He could be more accurate. The most thorough listing of those men and women recognised as saints (or, one degreee under, as blesseds) by the Roman Catholic Church includes some 10,000 names. Fewer than 2,000, have been formally canonised — officially declared to be saints after a period of investigation into their lives and writings.

The declaration that someone may be venerated as a saint is, within the Roman Catholic Chuch, the prerogative of the Pope. It was not always so. By far the greater number of saints in the calendar lived during the first millennium of Christianity when proofs of sanctity were not too rigorous. The papacy took control towards the end of the 12th century, and the number of the officially holy dropped sharply. Pope John Paul II is striving to redress the balance. He has canonised as many men and women as all his predecessors put together. In the recent inflation of saint-making the British have not fared well. But in the first century of official papal canonisation the English were to the fore — Thomas Becket, of course, in 1172, within three years of his death; Gilbert of Sempringham, canonised in 1202; Wulfstan of Worcester (1203); Hugh of Lincoln (1220); William of York (1227); Edmund of Abingdon (1246); and Richard of Chichester (1262).

The feast of one of them, Gilbert of Sempringham in Lincolnshire, is celebrated today. It is customary to commemorate a saint on his or her *dies natalis*, or birthday into Heaven, ie, the anniversay of death. Gilbert died on February 4, 1189, at 106. His life is well attested not simply because of the care with which his canonisation documents were prepared, but because he was a founder of a religious order, the only Englishman or woman of whom that could be said until well after the Reformation.

The Gilbertines began as an order for women but lay brothers were added to manage the nuns' property and priests attached to look after government and provide spiritual direction. By the time of Gilbert's death there were 1,500 members in 13 houses. Four were priories of men and nine "double monasteries", two houses existing side by side, one for men, the other for women. Curiously, each had a different rule for life: the nuns followed that of St Benedict: the priests the Augustinian rule; the lay brother the rule of Citeaux. Gilbert, unassuming and utterly lacking in ambition, tried to hand over governance to the English cistercian abbots, but they refused. Gilbert remained in charge almost to his death. Gilbertines disappeared for ever in the suppression of monasteries during the reign of Henry VIII.

No foundations outside the realm which, in that time of crisis, might have ensured survival, were made by Gilbert or later Masters of the Order. A patron saint, then, for the Euro-sceptics?

☐ *Michael Walsh is librarian of Heythrop College, University of London, and biographer of Pope John Paul II.*

At Your Service, Weekend, page 2

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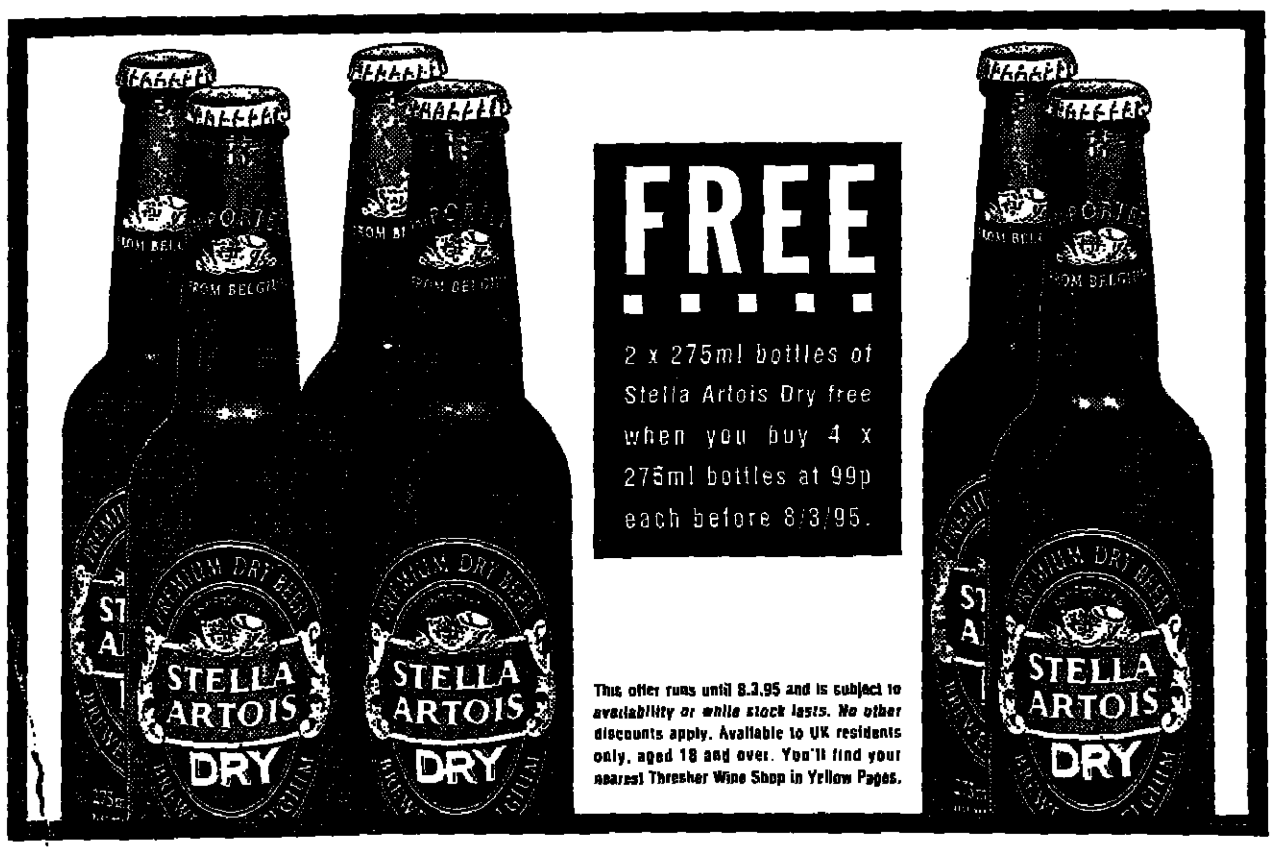

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Blunkett bolsters Labour shift on opt-out schools

By Arthur Leathley, political correspondent

LABOUR'S policy shift on grant-maintained schools was reinforced last night when David Blunkett urged the party's councillors to build on the present system.

The Shadow Education Secretary made clear that the party expected Labour councillors to co-operate in allowing schools to control their budgets. In the past he has called for abolition of the grant-maintained system, but yesterday said local authorities should develop a flexible partnership with the 1,000 schools within it.

At the party's local government conference in Brighton, Mr Blunkett said: "It is not a question of looking back, but looking forward. And I appeal to councillors here today to be imaginative in how they approach such partnership with schools."

Ministers have accused Labour-controlled councils of staging concerted campaigns to discourage parents from opting out of education authority control, but Mr Blunkett said: "We must build on the experience of local management of schools, provide equitable funding arrangements, enhance accountability and positively support those schools with agreed programmes for improvement."

Both Mr Blunkett and Tony Blair, the party leader, are drawing up a Labour education policy that will retain grant-maintained schools but restore a link with local authorities. After Mr Blair's controversial decision to send his son to a grant-maintained school, the party moved towards allowing the schools to operate "within a democratic framework".

Mr Blunkett indicated the party's shift in opinion in December but yesterday's speech was unusual in being aimed specifically at Labour councillors.

Mr Blunkett also pledged that Labour would press the Office for Standards in Education to take more positive action over schools that are found to have shortcomings. "We want to see a truly effective Offsted, which doesn't just highlight good or bad practice but which intervenes where schools are failing. One where the advice and support at a local level helps schools to recover, rather than allow them to sink into closure."

He pointed to Labour plans for a massive expansion of opportunity through education into the next century, reducing elitism in schools and universities. "As we approach the millennium, we face some stark choices for our country. We can continue to exist in a society where good education is still seen as beyond the wit of the majority of the people — and is only available to the few. Or we can build a quiet revolution which changes the nature of opportunity, the ability of the many to succeed and the competitiveness of Britain in the 21st century."

John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, joined the attack on the government's education policy, accusing ministers of cutting budgets to state schools while private schools have increasing resources. "That's not the politics of envy. It's the politics of injustice and unfairness," he said.

"Education should not depend on a parent's right to pay. It should be the right of every child in a modern society to extend their ability to the full. That's why we believe in a strong, comprehensive education system."

Mr Prescott called on councillors to capitalise on Tory party troubles by fighting an aggressive campaign in the local elections in May.

Sir Nicholas en route to victory in 1992. Next time, he says, the Tories will lose

Fairbairn attacks 'no-hoper' chosen to fight his seat

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland correspondent

THE Tory MP Sir Nicholas Fairbairn condemned the man chosen to replace him at the next general election as a hopeless candidate yesterday.

Sir Nicholas, who is gravely ill with hepatitis and is standing down, warned the Tory party that it would lose the Perth and Kinross seat because John Godfrey, a London-based banker, was unelectable. "He is a clone." Sir Nicholas said. "I don't think he knows anything about Perthshire or Scotland. I have had numerous calls and letters from local Tory supporters who agree that he is totally irrelevent."

Perth and Kinross has always been considered one of the Tories' safer Scottish seats. Sir Nicholas polled 40 per cent of the vote in 1992 and has a majority of 2,094 over the Scottish National Party. He has told his constituency chairman, Martin Robb, that the voters believe Mr Godfrey will be an absentee MP and that he will not win the seat.

Sir Nicholas, who lists his recreations in *Who's Who* as "drawing ships, making quips, confounding Whips and scuttling drips", made his comments in an interview with *The Herald* newspaper.

Yesterday Mr Godfrey said he was disappointed and surprised but not particularly upset. "I take it in pretty good heart knowing what Nicky is like. I'm surprised because I have had a number of talks with him and correspondence and so far he has been helpful."

Mr Godfrey defended his Scottish credentials. He was brought up in Invernesshire and went to school in Lochaber. He fought the tough seat of Glasgow Maryhill in 1992. "All my roots are in Scotland. I've been away for a few years because I've taken the Tebbit line and got on my bike to follow a job but I am keen to move back," he said.

'Treasury must fund teacher pay rise'

By Nicholas Wood
chief political correspondent

THE efforts of Gillian Shephard to build bridges with teachers will be severely jeopardised unless the Treasury offers more money for their annual pay award, one of the Tory party's most senior educationists says.

Sir Malcolm Thornton, chairman of the all-party Commons Education Select Committee, said the Treasury should make available at least an extra £100 million to avoid teacher redundancies, bigger class sizes and a renewed battle with the teaching unions.

Sir Malcolm is writing to Mrs Shephard, the Education Secretary, to back the case for more money to meet the likely shortfall between the amount allocated for the pay award and that recommended by the pay review body. Next week the Cabinet is expected to approve an increase of about 2.9 per cent but local authorities have on average only an extra 1.1 per cent available.

Sir Malcolm said: "The one thing that we cannot do is to accept a salary award and then turn round to local authorities and say it is not going to be fully funded — tough. That is a recipe for confrontation and would destroy almost overnight the work that Gillian has been trying to do."

It has been speculated that Mrs Shephard is seeking up to £200 million extra to help to meet the shortfall and may raise the matter in Cabinet next week. However, the Education Department said that she had not formally approached the Treasury and it was up to local authorities to meet the award by making savings on overheads.

Former Kinnock adviser moves up

By Jeremy Laurance
health services
correspondent

A FORMER adviser to Neil Kinnock has been promoted to a senior post on a forum considering the future of the NHS in an apparent attempt to restore the group's political credibility.

Patricia Hewitt, who worked for Mr Kinnock when he was Labour leader, has become vice-chairman of Healthcare 2000, the independent forum chaired by Sir Duncan Nichol, former chief executive of the NHS. Her appointment came after concerns were raised about Sir Duncan's links with the private healthcare organisation Bupa. Sir Duncan retired from the NHS last April and joined Bupa as a non-executive director six months later.

Ms Hewitt, who recently left her post as deputy director of the Insitute of Public Policy Research, a Labour think-tank, was a member of the steering committee of Healthcare 2000 until last week's promotion. She said it had been suggested that she share the workload with the chairman. Sir Duncan was unavailable for comment yesterday.

The independent forum, launched with a letter to *The Times* last August, is backed by £100,000 from a consortium of 36 drugs companies. It aims to report on the future options for healthcare in Britain by June.

☐ Patricia Hewitt accepted undisclosed Libel damages from the *Mail on Sunday* yesterday over an article that said she had concealed a previous marriage to the son of a Tory minister. The paper accepted that its claims were unfounded and apologised.

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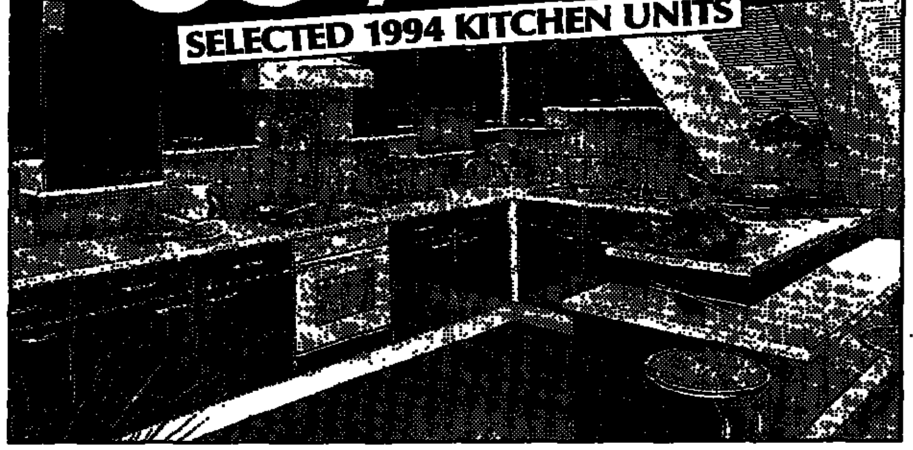

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Rescuers agree terms

Hillsborough officers sue their force

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

TWENTY-THREE police officers are to sue their own police force alleging it was responsible for the psychiatric disorder they suffered after the Hillsborough disaster.

Fourteen others are expected to receive compensation payments of up to £250,000 after South Yorkshire Police, Sheffield Wednesday Football Club and Eastwood and Partners, a firm of consulting engineers, accepted liability for their condition.

Payments will be assessed on the basis of the suffering and loss of actual and potential earnings. Damages are likely to range from £10,000 to £250,000, with the highest awards going to young officers whose prospects have been seriously undermined.

Relatives of those who died who tried to obtain compensation for post-traumatic stress were ruled ineligible unless they were parents or siblings and had been inside the ground rather than watching on television.

Solicitors for the three organisations admitted liability for the suffering of the 14 officers who were trying to rescue football supporters trapped in two enclosures in April 1989. There were 96 deaths. Talks on the size of the settlement for people claiming to have nightmares, nervous exhaustion and depression are expected to take months. However, claims made by the other officers not in the enclosures or involved in the rescue will be contested.

Simon Allen, a solicitor instructed by the Police Federation, said two inspectors, five sergeants and 30 constables were alleging post-traumatic stress syndrome as a result of what they saw. "Some are still carrying on with their duties but others have had to retire," he said. Fifteen had retired on medical grounds.

The Municipal Mutual Insurance Company, insurers for the three defendants, conceded liability after being advised they were likely to lose in court because the 14 officers rescued survivors.

The remaining 23 are suing the force in its capacity as being allegedly responsible for the disaster.

Leading article, page 17

Proximity is key to a successful claim

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

THE principle that damages may be awarded in the civil courts for psychological injury caused by witnessing a disaster has been upheld since Victorian times.

Such awards have become increasingly common. Last week a man whose life fell apart after his two daughters drowned when a car driven by their nanny plunged into a river was awarded £1.1 million for post-traumatic stress.

It was not until the House of Lords ruling in the cases brought by relatives of Hillsborough victims that definitive guidelines were laid down on who could claim. The claimant must be able to show that the defendant could have foreseen the disaster and was at fault in failing to take adequate safety precautions. They must also show that the psychological injury was caused by witnessing the scene.

However, the key test is that of "proximity". The claimant must be close to the disaster physically, or to have heard about it soon after and be a relative or a rescuer.

If a person crosses the proximity hurdle, the test the courts then apply is "whether a reasonably strong-nerved person would be shocked".

MICHAEL POWELL

Morrison at the console: "The sound was classic English-cathedral: rich, robust but not raucous. Trollope would have loved it. Moreover, the touch felt right"

Even my rusty Bach acquired a sheen

Hi-tech digital organ hits all the right notes

Oxford scholars are opposing an electronic organ for the Sheldonian Theatre to replace a pipe organ. ***Richard Morrison*** *tried Worcester Cathedral's model*

WITH my right hand and left foot clamped on something that resembled a D major chord, my left hand reached for the knob invitingly labelled "16ft Posaune". Recklessly, I pulled it out. Sixteen feet of megawatt trombone sound surged from my toe. The nave of Worcester Cathedral fairly shook with noise. Visiting schoolchildren grinned; minor canons winced. Outside, the statue of Sir Edward Elgar probably turned on its pedestal.

I was seated not at the console of a conventional pipe organ, but at the Bradford Computing Organ, the space-age interloper that is at the centre of the Sheldonian Theatre dispute in Oxford. It has no pipes, no mighty wind-chest or bellows; just sophisticated micro-circuitry, a large electronic palette of digitally sampled sounds, and 40 big speakers on high ledges that run the length of the nave.

Developed at Bradford University, some 200 of these computing organs have been installed in churches, colleges, even Holloway Prison. But the Worcester instrument, bought for £75,000 in 1989 when building work curtailed use of the cathedral's sprawling Victorian organ, is the most famous electronic organ in Britain. After all, Worcester Cathedral — home of the world's oldest choral festival — has a tradition for fine music-making stretching back centuries. Dr Donald Hunt, the Worcester organist, is convinced that he is not short-changing this heritage by introducing the Bradford organ. "We have used it for BBC broadcasts and commercial recordings. Nobody has noticed the difference. Try it yourself."

I did. Pulling out the "Festival Trumpet" I attempted something jolly by Purcell. The trumpet timbre was pure, powerful and thrilling. My fingers, unfortunately, were not. Dr Hunt tactfully muttered something about "meetings to attend" and swiftly exited.

Switching to something less demanding from the Victorian repertoire, I decided to use one of the bigger "swell" combinations. The sound was classic English-cathedral: rich, robust but not raucous. Trollope would have loved it. Moreover, the touch of the organ felt right: just enough resistance under the fingers. Not a bit like those electronic keyboards in High Street stores. Of course, there is a £74,900 price difference.

The secret weapon, however, is a little button that switches one whole manual from romantic, 19th-century stops into "Baroque" mode, opening up a range of 18th-century mixtures and breathy flutes that sound utterly authentic. This is surely the most powerful argument in favour of a computing organ being installed in the Sheldonian. Even my rusty Bach and Buxtehude acquired a certain authentic sheen, at least until I came to the difficult bits.

As a cathedral verger confided, there was some hostility to the computing organ when it first came to Worcester. "Some old dears in the congregation complained that it gave them migraines. We told them we would add an anti-migraine device. Now they are happy."

My only reservation is that the deepest pedal notes do not thunder convincingly enough. Nevertheless, even I could make a "full organ" combination resonate gloriously through this mighty cathedral. Such a feeling of megalomania, too!

By this time, however, the men in red cassocks had come to lead me gently away. My hour of power was over.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mother free after nearly killing baby

Rana Thorburn, 22, nearly drowned her daughter Chloe, aged 20 months, when she snapped while bathing her. She held the baby under the water for up to two minutes after screaming at the child, "Go away, go away", but she saved her daughter by giving her the kiss of life, Newcastle Crown Court was told. Thorburn, who admitted inflicting grievous bodily harm, was put on probation for two months.

Pet hate

A £500 reward is being offered to catch the killer of seven cats in one street who impaled their heads on spikes and then disembowelled the pets in their owners' gardens in Newark, Nottinghamshire.

Final furlong

Royal Military Police horse patrols in Aldershot, Hampshire, are to end after 140 years because of defence cuts. The Mounted Troop of 160 Provost Co, known as the "Redcaps", will stage a farewell parade on March 5.

Youth jailed

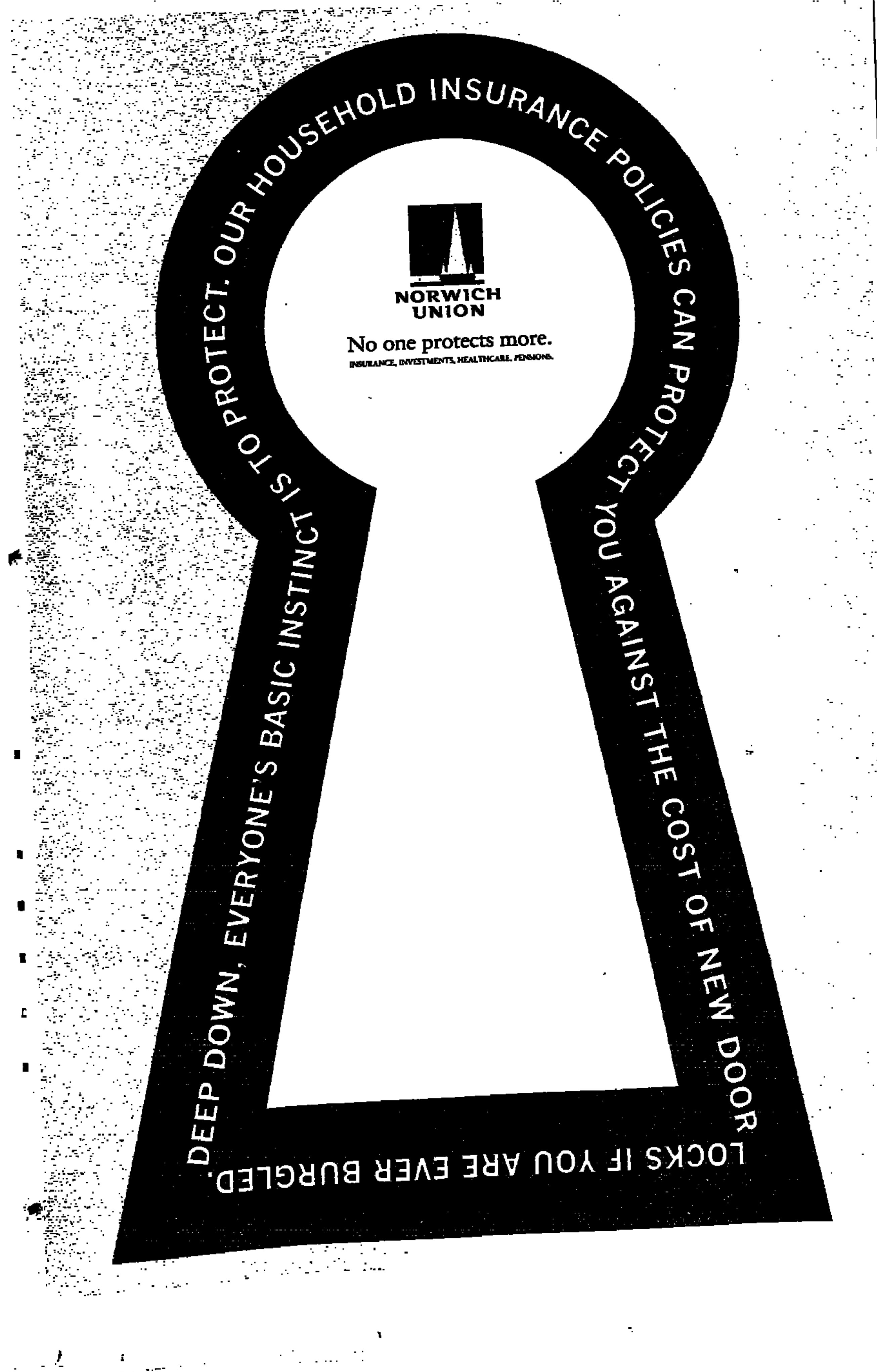
Delroy Kelly, 17, was sentenced by the Old Bailey to two years' custody for torturing a girl aged 12. Kelly, of Tooting, southwest London, had admitted having a firearm with intent, false imprisonment and assault.

Museum extends

A scheme to extend the Ruskin Museum at Coniston village in the Lake District at a cost of £250,000 has been approved by National Park planners. The writer John Ruskin lived there from 1872 to 1900.

Woolly goats

Hundreds of angora goats that have been sheared at a farm at Longhope, Gloucestershire, have been dressed in woollen jumpers to keep out the cold. The clothes have been donated by local schoolchildren.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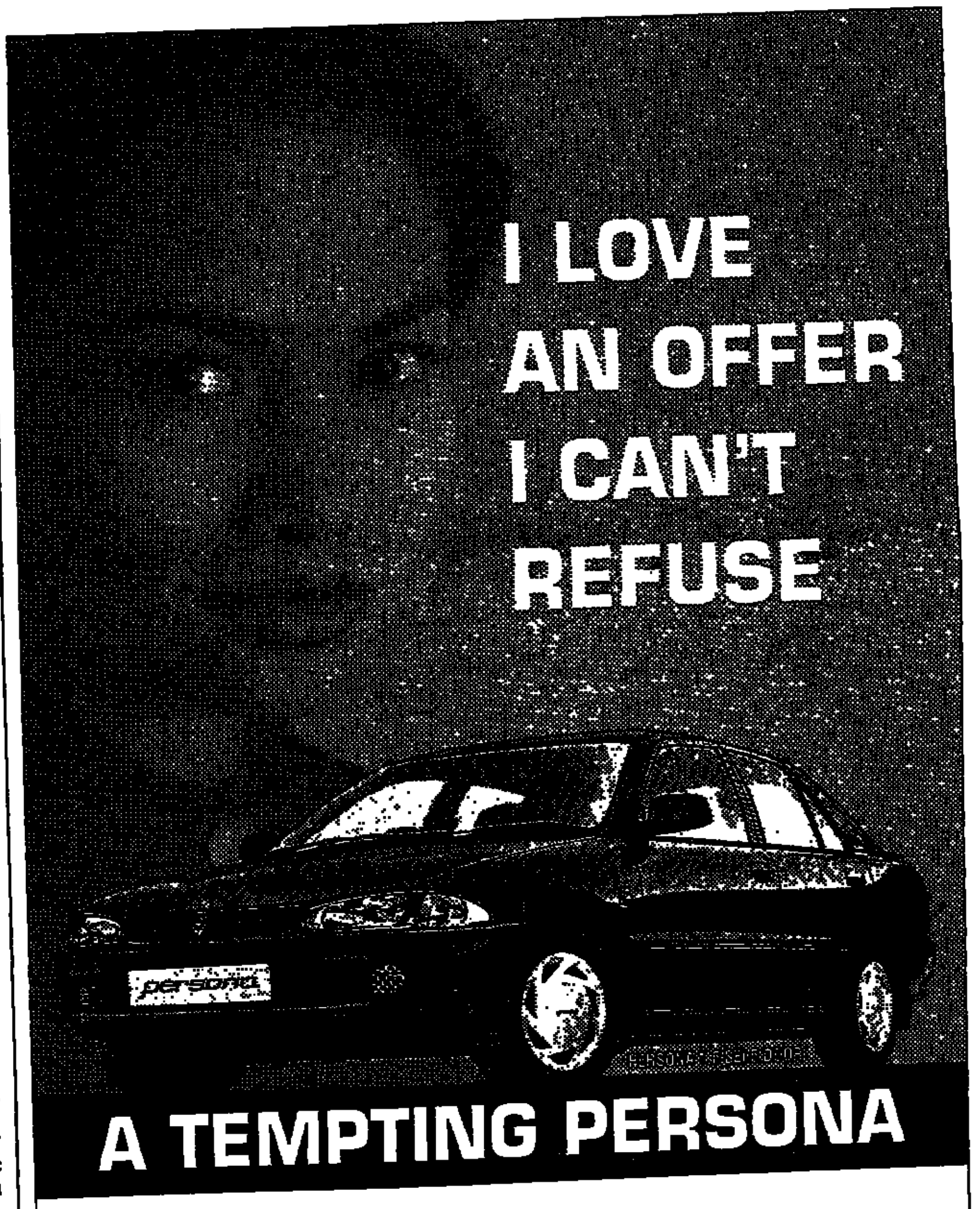
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Lawyers will go to law lords after court approves detention

Illegal immigrants seeking asylum lose right to be free

By Richard Ford
HOME CORRESPONDENT

Howard: "Detention is only a last resort"

MICHAEL HOWARD won a test case yesterday reversing a judge's decision that could have freed from detention centres hundreds of illegal immigrants seeking asylum.

The Court of Appeal ruled that the detention of four men under the 1971 Immigration Act was justifiable. But the Home Secretary freed the three Indians and a Pakistani and allowed them temporary admission to the United Kingdom while their applications for asylum were being investigated.

They surrendered to immigration officials in the appeal court buildings and were immediately released. An immigration official said that it was not proposed to release other detainees in a similar category.

Rehmat Khan, 50, from Bolton, Parmjeet Singh Virk, 30, from Manchester, Inderpal Singh, 28, and Pal Taggar, 29, both from Huddersfield, must live at the addresses they gave immigration officials and report weekly to the police. Lawyers for the four men were refused leave to challenge the ruling in the House of Lords but plan to petition the law lords for permission to appeal. Liaqat Malik, a solicitor for three of them, said: "I am shocked at the decision."

Mr Howard had appealed against a decision by Mr Justice Dyson that illegal immigrants who applied for political asylum could not be held in custody under the 1971 Act. The four men had argued that once they had applied for political asylum there was no power under the Act to detain them.

Mr Justice Dyson's ruling meant that immigration officers had no power to interrogate, detain or deport the men while their applications for asylum were pending determination.

During the appeal court hearing, David Pannick, QC, for the Home Secretary, said that "no rational Parliament" could have intended such surprising results. All an illegal immigrant had to do to be set free was assert an asylum claim, despite the concerns of immigration officers that they might abscond while their asylum applications were considered.

Lord Justice Leggatt, sitting with Lord Justice Otton and Lord Justice Ralph Gibson, overturned the judgment. He said the men were illegal immigrants who had not been given leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom.

He said that Mr Khan arrived in the UK in 1990 and was given leave to enter "as a result of deception", according to the Home Office. He said he wanted to visit relatives but in 1991 applied for political asylum, though his wife and six children still live in Pakistan.

Last year he was notified that he was an illegal immigrant, liable to be detained in custody pending a decision on deportation.

Mr Virk, Mr Singh and Mr Taggar arrived in Britain hidden aboard a lorry last year and shortly afterwards applied for asylum. The men, who work in a shoe factory in Manchester, were served with a notice similar to Mr Khan last December.

SIMON KREITEM

Inderpal Singh, left, and Pal Taggar, second right, with solicitor Liaquat Malik, far right

Outside the court, Mr Taggar, from the Punjab, said that he was seeking asylum in Britain because his life was in danger in India. "No one knows what is happening in India," he said. "They don't know how we are treated in prison, very bad, like animals."

Immigration welfare groups warned that the appeal court ruling would lead to the further expansion of the use of detention for asylum applicants.

Nicholas Blake, QC, chairman of the Immigration Law Practitioners Association, said the plight of those fleeing from persecution was worsened by the fact that they could spend nine months or longer in a detention centre or prison with no right of appeal.

In a statement welcoming the appeal court ruling, Mr Howard said: "Detention of asylum seekers is only used as a last resort. Less than 1.5 per cent of asylum seekers are detained. They are only detained if it is felt that they would not voluntarily comply with restrictions placed on their release."

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Kings on the run

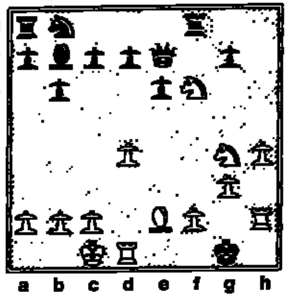
On the topic of king hunts, today's games, one ancient, one relatively modern, reveal the power of a queen sacrifice to lure the enemy king to its doom. The first game is one of the most spectacular king pursuits on record, with White delivering checkmate by castling.

White: Edward Lasker
Black: Sir George Thomas
London, 1910

Dutch Defence

1	d4	f5
2	Nc3	Nf6
3	Nf3	e6
4	Bg5	Be7
5	Bxf6	Bxf6
6	12c e4	fxe4
7	Nxe4	b6
8	Bd3	Bb7
9	Ne5	0-0

Diagram of final position



10	Qh5	Qe7
11	Qxh7+	Kxh7
12	Nxf6+	Kh6
13	Neg4+	Kg5
14	h4+	Kf4
15	g3+	Kf3
16	Be2+	Kg2
17	Rh2+	Kg1
18	0-0-0	checkmate

The next game shows an elegant offer of White's queen, ultimately placing the black king at the mercy of a checkmating crossfire, set up by White's bishop and pawns.

White: Petrosian
Black: Pachman
Bled 1961

King's Indian Attack

1	Nf3	c5
2	g3	Nc6
3	Bg2	g6
4	0-0	Bg7
5	d3	e6
6	e4	Nge7
7	Re1	0-0
8	e5	d6
9	exd6	Qxd6
10	Nbd2	Qc7
11	Nb3	Nd4
12	Bf4	Qb6
13	Ne5	Nxb3
14	Nc4	Qb5
15	axb3	a5
16	Bd6	Bf8
17	Qf3	Kg7
18	Re4	Rd8
19	Qxf6+	Kxf6
20	Be5+	Kg5
21	Bg7	Black resigns

There is no defence against a swift checkmate starting with h4+.

World championship

The semi-finals of the Fide world championship start next week in Sanghi Nagar, Inidia. Gate Kamsky (US) faces Valery Salov (Russia), while Anatoly Karpov (Russia) plays the Belarussian grandmaster Boris Gelfand. While Karpov is the clear favourite in his contest, the clash between Kamsky and Salov is wide open.

Winning Move, Weekend, page 29

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

Dealer East **North-South game. IMPs**

♠KQ64
♥Q732
♦J108
♣J4

♠AJ105
♥K64
♦K
♣K8652

N
W E
S

♠9873
♥9
♦762
♣A10973

♠2
♥AJ1085
♦AQ9543
♣Q

W	N	E	S
Levin	Mansell	Kasle	Cope
—	—	Pass	1♦
Dble	1NT (1)	Pass	2♥ (2)
Pass	4♥	All pass	

Contract: Four Hearts by South. Opening lead: five of clubs

By Robert Sheehan
BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

(1) Without intervention, North would respond One Heart. However, after the Double it is less likely that there is a major-suit fit, and so 1NT to show a few scattered values becomes more attractive.
(2) Even though he is minimum in terms of high cards, the shape justifies a reverse.

This is another hand described in the Macallan Pairs bulletin (edited by Patrick Jourdain). Mansell and Cope are South Africa's leading pair. When East won the first club he continued with a low one. Declarer ruffed and led a spade towards the king-queen. Levin won the ace and played a second spade. Cope won and played a heart to the 10 and king, and Levin exited with a heart.

At this point Cope had a straightforward calculation. It appeared that East had at least five clubs to the ace but could not bid over North's 1NT. Hence West had to have the king of diamonds. Therefore there was no hope unless it was a singleton; so he laid down the the ace of diamonds. It is customary bridge journalese to add "and was duly rewarded".

When the Irish international Keith Singleton did something similar on a hand I described a few weeks ago I made some ghastly crack based on his name. I suppose you might do something with Cope . . . no, better let it go.

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Spotlight falls on First Lady-in-waiting who makes Barbara Bush look like a pushy careerist

Balladur's constant wife takes shy step forward

PARIS FILE

by CHARLES BREMNER

NOW that France views the spring presidential elections as little more than a detail on Edouard Balladur's stroll into the Elysée Palace, attention is turning to the woman likely to follow Danielle Mitterrand as the nation's *première dame.*

The notion of a First Lady dates back only to the presidency of Vincent Auriol in the early 1950s. Until then, mistresses rather than spouses left more of a mark on history. The most legendary *première dame* was Yvonne de Gaulle, the "French Queen Victoria" whose old-world ways were such a contrast to Jackie Kennedy.

To understand Marie-Josèphe Balladur, you only have to think of Hillary Clinton and reverse the picture. "Ma Josée", as her husband calls her, is such a self-effacing helpmate that she makes Barbara Bush look like a pushy careerist. The paragon of discreet bourgeois charm, the former Mlle Delacour took to her 1957 marriage as one enters holy orders, devoting herself to Edouard and their four sons.

Before the presidential campaign, Mme Balladur had rarely appeared in public and she has only just swallowed her dislike of the press enough to allow *Paris Match* to photograph her serving tea to Edouard in the gilded salon of their boulevard Delessert apartment. They also have homes in Chamonix and Deauville, the resort retreats of old money.

Mme Balladur has a husband famously unafflicted by the wandering eye that is the norm among French politicians. Edouard's conjugal devotion is so famous that his rivals mock his iron habit of going home by 8pm, leaving all work behind. Mme Balladur is said to have a playful side and is rumoured to have once waved a lighter at a Johnny Hallyday rock concert. But she is more famous for her strict morals. Early in M Balladur's premiership in 1993, she refused to shake hands with the unmarried partner of a Cabinet minister. She is also reported to have frozen out Pascal Clement, the Minister for Relations with Parliament. His offence was to crack a joke when ministers' wives came to meet their husbands at a suburban château. When their coach drew up, M Clement quipped: "*Voilà le BMC!*" The initials stand for "bordel militaire *de campagne*" — the brothel wagon that once travelled with armies.

FRANK SPOONER PICTURES

Marie-Josèphe and Edouard Balladur enjoy a cosy domesticity rare among French political families

Drifting half way to paradise

GUY DELAGE, who is swimming across the Atlantic, accompanied only by a raft with a satellite transmitter, is within reach of his target.

After shark attacks and storms, M Delage, 42, has only a few hundred miles to go and is expected to wash up on Barbados next Thursday. His mood is being lightened, he reports, by the shoals of tropical fish that have taken to accompanying his daily eight-hour dips. While M Delage, who set off from Cape Verde on December 16, will be greeted as a hero, spoilsports note that he will have swum only half the 2,400 miles, drifting the rest of the distance on his raft.

Bulletins of grief

FRENCH television viewers have been tuning in with ghoulish fascination this week to the personal agony of a newsreader.

Patrick Poivre-d'Arvor, 47, who hosts the country's most-watched news programme, has survived accusations over the years that he made up stories. His standing has not been dented by his forthcoming trial on charges of receiving gifts from an allegedly crooked businessman nor by a romance with Claire Chazal, his back-up newsreader on TF1.

However, Poivre-d'Arvor drew criticism this week when he went on with the news two days after Solenn, his 18-year-old daughter, committed suicide by throwing herself in front of a train. He opened with: "Nothing is more unjust than the loss of a child, an adolescent." He was referring to the deaths of six pupils in an accident, but few watching were unaware of his own sorrow. The popular media hailed his courage but *Le Monde* said there was something unhealthy in the way he was parading his suffering.

He received similar criticism two years ago when he published a book of his letters to Solenn, who was suffering from anorexia.

French Socialists seek saviour in presidential fight

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

FRENCH Socialists, deserted by their potential saviour and still dazed by defeat, are due tomorrow to anoint a presidential candidate whose main task will be to save their party from electoral disaster.

Regional officials and the leadership of President Mitterrand's party will gather to declare the outcome of a "primary" vote in which all 103,000 members were asked to choose between Henri Emmanuelli, 49, their first secretary, and Lionel Jospin, 57, one of his predecessors in the job.

Emmanuelli: 17-year record as an MP

There was no clear lead as counting began last night although pollsters had earlier reported a two-point margin in favour of M Jospin. An austere intellectual with an image of rectitude, M Jospin scores higher with the public than the blunt-spoken son of a Communist electrician who leads the party.

Not since the late 1960s, before M Mitterrand whipped together France's eternally feuding Left, have the Socialists entered a presidential campaign with such dim prospects. After a false dawn last autumn when polls suggested that Jacques Delors could defeat Edouard Balladur, the Gaullist Prime Minister and favourite, the party has slumped back into the disarray that followed its rout from government in 1993.

M Delors' refusal of the party's nomination followed the decisions of other popular figures not to seek the Socialist banner. These included Jack Lang, the Culture Minister, and Martine Aubry, a rising star who is also M Delors' daughter.

Initial reports suggested that many Socialists had shunned the ballot, reflecting widespread disgust over the latest battle to erupt in what Michel Rocard, another former leader, describes as a "field of ruins". Only degrees of ideology separate the contenders. M Jospin, who served as Education Minister in the second Mitterrand term after 1988, enjoys the support of party reformers.

M Emmanuelli, who took over from M Rocard last July, controls the apparatus. More of a glad-handing politician than M Jospin, he also holds a stronger record as an MP. He has retained a seat from the southwestern Landes region since 1978.

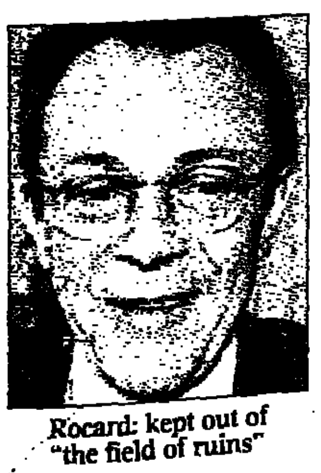
M Jospin briefly held a seat in the Garonne department and is now only a county councillor. M Emmanuelli, however, suffers the handicap of standing trial next month over charges involving illicit financing when he served as party treasurer.

Neither of the contenders, both former Mitterrand loyalists, enjoys measurable popularity beyond the party. The victor's big challenge, according to polls and pundits, will be to score well enough in the April 23 first round to enter the run-off on May 7. Polls this week showed this slot was more likely to be won by Jacques Chirac, the Prime Minister's Gaullist rival.

An honourable second place for the Socialists could lay the foundation for recovery of the party which, although discredited by its performance in office, still enjoys the emotional loyalty of the 40 per cent of France which considers itself to belong to the traditional Left.

The victor tomorrow will be kept to a new platform, agreed this week, which swings the party back to traditional left-wing policies. These include calls for raising the minimum wage, cutting working hours without reducing pay and reflating the economy by abandoning the commitment to the strong franc. Although the party remains strongly pro-European, the platform marks a striking break with the hard money discipline imposed by the Mitterrand administration after 1983.

Although the Socialist fortunes are at a low ebb, the party leaders say they are convinced they can make headway against M Balladur once their candidate opens his campaign. The Prime Minister has so far enjoyed something of a free ride, cruising far ahead of M Chirac, his fraternal rival. M Emmanuelli promised to "wake up this campaign and force M Balladur to get out of his sedan chair and have a real debate about the real state of French society".



Rocard: kept out of "the field of ruins"

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Poland counts cost of Churchill's surrender at Yalta

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

WHILE hundreds of thousands of Dutch fled floods this week, a smaller evacuation took place outside Berlin. An unexploded 250kg American bomb was dug up on a building site and 17,000 residents had to be moved to safety.

It was a reminder that during this critical month 50 years ago, when Josef Stalin, Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill were sitting down to carve up Europe, bombs were raining down on Germany. The Yalta Conference, held in the fine white granite Lavidia Palace overlooking the Black Sea, was supposed to co-ordinate the Allied campaign in the dying days of Hitler's Reich and in a muddled kind of way it succeeded.

But the sub-text of the summit — who kept which conquered or occupied country — sowed bitterness in Eastern Europe which was to linger for more than 40 years. Neither the fall of the Berlin Wall, nor the collapse of communism in the East, has completely undone the damage to confidence of the Yalta Conference. For Poles, in particular, it represents the boundless capacity of the West to be fooled by Russia. Even now, in Polish observations of the way that Moscow is trying to gain a veto right over Central European participation in Nato, Yalta is invoked.

Plainly nobody sitting around the table in the Lavidia Palace trusted anyone else. Churchill had broadly outlined to Stalin a possible division of Europe during his visit to Moscow in October 1944. That autumn, there was still a measure of uncertainty about the German capacity to prolong the war. Germany had its V1s and V2s — did it also have a wonder weapon? Was Hitler able to snatch back the initiative?

By the first week of February 1945, these questions had been more or less settled. Soviet soldiers were crossing the Oder, there was a British and Canadian offensive west of Nijmegen. American and British bombers were dropping their loads on German cities, and Budapest was about to fall to the Red Army.

The Tehran Conference in 1943 had already accepted the Curzon Line as the basis for the Polish-Soviet frontier. Stalin had insisted throughout the war that he was fighting for the frontiers of June 1941 — the Baltic states, Bessarabia, as well as the eastern half of prewar Poland — and he always pressed for a "friendly" Polish Government. The United States, and in particular Britain, which had guaranteed Polish independence, did Poland no service at all in Yalta. Churchill accepted Soviet power in Eastern Europe, but tried to limit it in Central Europe.

In the view of many European historians — not only Poles but also Germans and Greeks — Churchill was outplayed by Stalin. However, it can be argued that Churchill had little choice. The Battle of Stalingrad had forcefully shown the power of the Red Army; the speed of its advance westwards was formidable.

In crude terms, there is little doubt that Stalin won in Yalta, and Eastern Europe lost. There were some surprise winners, notably Josip Broz Tito, who exploited the gap left in the Yalta table talk. Tito's cadre of communist partisans succeeded in outmanoeuvring Stalin.

The bitterness is greatest in Poland because of the contrast between its brave fighting on the ground alongside the British — the Battle of Britain, Italy, Normandy — and the easy sidelining of its interests at the diplomatic high table. Perhaps the most enduring lesson of Yalta is about the relationship of great powers to small powers; the ugliness of decisions being taken without consultation about the future of whole peoples.

Coalition braced for Walesa legal battle

FROM PAT KOZA IN WARSAW

LEADERS of Poland's ruling coalition resolved yesterday to counter President Walesa's threat to dissolve parliament with legal manoeuvres, including hauling him before a state tribunal if he breaches constitutional law.

The President began to back away from the confrontation he had been promoting for the past few days after he said that he intended to disband the two chambers. Lech Falandysz, the head of the President's chancellery, said Mr Walesa would not dissolve the bicameral legislature this weekend.

President Walesa has a list of grievances against the left-wing Government and Waldemar Pawlak, its increasingly hapless Prime Minister, whom he wants replaced. The grievances include Mr Pawlak's refusal to fill three vacant ministerial posts.

Mr Walesa is using a clause in Poland's interim constitution — which was passed after the end of Communist rule — which says that if the state budget Act is not passed within three months of the day the Bill is filed with the Sejm, the President can dissolve the parliament. The Bill was passed by parliament on time, however, and it is Mr Walesa who is holding up its enactment.

Smooth Dutch PR has news flowing

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN NIJMEGEN

AS THE floods receded yesterday, the people of the Dutch province of Gelderland sighed in relief, confident that the worst was over and hoping that they would be allowed home within days. The area remained on high alert, however, because of the residual risk of dykes collapsing.

Apart from the stoic demeanour of the evacuees, among the most enduring memories of the crisis has been the efficient stage management of the Nijmegen city authorities. Within hours of news of the first evacuation, they put up a well-equipped press and crisis centre, with experts readily available for comment. Those in charge of crisis management arranged "sightseeing tours" to a damaged dyke, a flooded house, an evacuated village, even a brief encounter with a woman who refused to leave her home. Nothing was left to chance — it was better organised than the average European Union summit.

But not once during the four-day period of high flood alert in Gelderland was there a sense of impending doom. Had the danger been exaggerated, as those who refused to be evacuated claimed?

The answer will not be known until water levels have returned to normal and the experts have conducted an extensive review of the damage to internal structures of the dykes which, although simple banks of sand and clay, are subject to a complex interaction of the laws of physics and the weather.

What is certain is that Gelderland and Limburg provinces are almost certain to prevail in the long-running struggle to persuade the Dutch Government to reinforce the river dykes, at an estimated cost of billions of pounds. Once this programme is completed, the risk of a catastrophe will be reduced, but it will still be unpredictable. No system will ever be completely leak-proof.

A member of France's SAS-style Commando de Recherche et d'Action dans la Profondeur (CRAP) displays the latest helmet and night vision goggles at his base in Toulouse (Michael Evans writes). The 185-man teams have been placed under a new command, allowing them for the first time to be deployed together in a covert operation.

Mitterrand urges talks on Algeria

Paris: President Mitterrand proposed yesterday that the European Union should host a peace conference on Algeria, based partly on a platform agreed in Rome last month by secular and Islamic opposition parties.

The French President said that he and Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, had agreed that the EU should continue to give economic aid to Algeria without taking sides in the conflict between the military-led Government and Muslim fundamentalists fighting to overthrow it.

Speaking at a news conference after talks with Jacques Santer, the European Commission President, M Mitterrand said his proposal was for the moment "a discussion, a hope, not yet a policy".

The Algerian Government rejected the Rome policy for a ceasefire and democratic elections, branding it foreign interference in the country's civil strife, in which more than 30,000 people have been killed since January 1992. *(Reuter)*

Santer deplores US role in films

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

UNDER pressure from France, Jacques Santer, the President of the European Commission, deplored Hollywood's domination of Europe's entertainment business yesterday and promised proposals to give more play to the local film industry.

"It is not normal that our market should be flooded with American productions while European productions should represent only 1 per cent of films circulating in the United States," Mr Santer said after talks between the Commission and the French Government.

The Commission is trying to find ways of stimulating the European audiovisual industry in a way that would "especially help" the French film industry, he said. The centrepiece is the 1989 *Television Without Frontiers* directive, which sets quotas for the broadcast of non-European films and for stimulating continental production.

President Mitterrand and Edouard Balladur, his Prime Minister, looked on as Mr Santer backtracked on remarks last week that had earned him a rebuke from Paris. He had criticised the protectionist quotas favoured by France as a means of restraining the American grip on Europe's leisure hours. Defending himself yesterday, Mr Santer said he had no intention of tampering with the quota system and he accused the British press of a witch-hunt against him.

He said quotas were an effective short-term way of defending the film industry. Priority must also go to improving the circulation of programmes and films inside Europe and to ensuring that local films were broadcast outside the European Union. Paris has made clear during the past week that it aims to use its EU presidency to force through its schemes, largely opposed by Britain, Germany and several smaller states, to protect European culture.

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Trade war looms as US acts to end China piracy

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

AMERICA will this morning announce the largest set of punitive trade sanctions in its history to crack down on rampant piracy of American music, films and software.

Barring a last-minute agreement by China, the Clinton Administration is expected to impose 100 per cent tariffs on at least $1 billion (£638 million) worth of Chinese goods, a move that could trigger a full-blown trade war between the two countries because China has threatened to retaliate. Last year America imported more than $36 billion worth of Chinese goods, and sold it more than $9 billion of American products.

Mickey Kantor, the American Trade Representative, warned Peking yesterday that the Clinton Administration would not hesitate to impose "the largest sanctions in retaliation in American history" unless Peking met Washington's demands by today's deadline. They know what we need. They know what is appropriate. They know what they need to do to be consistent with international norms and it is time they reacted correctly," Mr Kantor declared, but he seemed pessimistic that they would.

Last night, there was no real sense of crisis in Peking, just a feeling that more moderate counsels would prevail. There was no indication that the Chinese side had accepted an invitation from Mr Kantor to continue discussions in Washington, after the breakdown of nine days of talks last Saturday. But then most of China was still shut down in the aftermath of the lunar new year festival and will still be undergoing something of a hangover today when the American deadline expires.

Ann Stevenson-Yang, Peking representative of the US-China Business Council, said she was both optimistic and pessimistic over the trade dispute. She said that Mr Kantor would announce the sanctions but would give a grace period for goods already on the way. "That will give a last window of opportunity for talks," she said. "I am fairly optimistic the problems will be solved."

Under counter-measures announced by the Chinese Government if the Americans go ahead with their sanctions, tariffs on imports of American liquor, cigarettes, cosmetics, game machines and ironically video cassettes — which are allegedly widely counterfeited — will be increased by 100 per cent. Chinese businessmen have claimed that American exporters would lose their market share to competitors from Japan and Europe if there was a trade war.

The Americans have been trying for years to end blatant Chinese piracy of American videotapes, compact discs and other intellectual property that costs American businesses an estimated $1 billion a year. Washington believed it had prevailed two years ago when China agreed to new laws banning the illegal copying of foreign products, but the laws were not enforced. Yesterday compact discs were being hawked by street vendors in Peking for one-tenth of their market price in the West.

The Clinton Administration has made no secret of how much it values continued trade with China, which is the world's fastest-growing market. Last year President Clinton even reversed an election pledge by ending the linkage between China's preferential trading status and its poor human rights record. But Mr Kantor insisted the Administration had "100 per cent across-the-board support" from corporate America for taking retaliatory action.

American-Chinese relations are again deteriorating despite the Administration's efforts to embrace rather than isolate China. Earlier this week the State Department issued a report stating that there had been no improvement over the past year in China's reprehensible human rights record.

Peruvian reinforcements board boats at Bagua on their way to the Amazon front

Ecuador and Peru agree 'in principle'

FROM REUTER
IN RIO DE JANEIRO

DELEGATIONS from Peru and Ecuador attending peace talks in Rio de Janeiro agreed a ceasefire yesterday and also agreed in principle to an accord that would end the border conflict, but the deal still requires approval by their governments.

The proposed agreement, reached after three days of talks, has been sent to Lima and Quito for government approval, said Sebastião do Rego Barros, the Brazilian Deputy Foreign Minister. He gave no details of the accord, but added that the talks would resume later.

Fighting between Peru and Ecuador broke out eight days ago in a disputed Amazon border area to which both countries lay claim. Peruvian troops attacked Ecuadorean positions in the area on Thursday. Peru says it has killed 43 Ecuadorean soldiers and lost 11 of its men; Ecuador says 33 soldiers have died, 28 of them Peruvians.

President Clinton and Javier Solana, the Spanish Foreign Minister, have both called on the two belligerents to put an immediate end to the hostilities.

Señor Solana said it was contradictory, at a time when modernisation was being consolidated in Latin America, "that two brother members of our community are confronting each other with violence and bloodshed".

AROUND AMERICA

Abortion row for Clinton

Washington: President Clinton yesterday faced the prospect of an ugly clash with the Republican-controlled Congress after the White House acknowledged that his nominee for the vacant post of Surgeon-General had performed abortions (Martin Fletcher writes). Henry Foster, a Nashville obstetrician and gynaecologist, has a long association with Planned Parenthood, a national organisation that provides abortion counselling, and an inner-city Nashville programme that distributes condoms to prevent teenage pregnancies.

Dead baby's father cleared

New York: A man who disconnected his 11-week premature baby from a respirator has been acquitted in Michigan of manslaughter. The baby, who weighted 1lb 1loz, died within minutes. Dr Gregory Messenger, a dermatologist, told the court that he unplugged the machine hours after the boy was born last year "out of love".

Obstacles to office

Washington: A biography of President Clinton, *First in his Class* by David Maraniss, discloses that misgivings over extramarital affairs and his avoidance of the Vietnam draft prevented him from running for the White House before 1992. He is portrayed as a man with little personal discipline.

Moose trap

North Pole, Alaska: When William Keith's lavatory became blocked he called in workmen to pump the septic tank — and found a moose. The half-ton animal had fallen down a 3ft hole in the sewer system and died. *(AP)*

'He's ranting, he's crazy', O. J. Simpson's ex-wife shouts on police tape

FROM GILES WHITTELL
IN LOS ANGELES

FOR the first time since being selected last year, the jury at O. J. Simpson's murder trial heard chilling evidence of his apparently violent relationship with Nicole Brown Simpson, his former wife, when a taped emergency call she made eight months before her death was played in court in Los Angeles.

"He's ranting and raving . . . he's crazy," Brown Simpson was heard to say. In a second telephone call made minutes later, Brown Simpson, clearly terrified, told the police telephone operator: "He's back . . . He's O. J. Simpson; I think you know his record."

Describing an incident in October 1993 at her home as it took place, she was heard on the tape to tell the operator that Mr Simpson "broke the back door in and then he left and he came back". As the operator urged her to stay on the line while waiting for the police to arrive, Brown Simpson added that Mr Simpson had forced his way upstairs to her bedroom and had demanded a telephone number before returning downstairs.

At that point a voice, apparently Mr Simpson's, was heard on the tape in the background, shouting obscenities at his former wife.

The taped encounter, first leaked to the media last year, is expected to be used by the prosecution team to support its argument that Mr Simpson had a jealous, controlling and ultimately fatal obsession with Brown Simpson. Immediately after the tape was played to jurors late on Thursday, however, Johnnie Cochran, a defence lawyer, sought to limit its impact. Cross-examining the operator, who had been called as a prosecution witness and had given evidence that she had upgraded the incident to "life-threatening" while talking to Brown Simpson, Mr Cochran established that Mr Simpson did not strike his former wife during the argument.

Earlier, the jury was shown letters written by Mr Simpson to his former wife and found after her death in a bank safe deposit box. In the letters, Mr Simpson acknowledged several separate incidents in which he had beaten his former wife and apologised for them.

Christopher Darden, for the prosecution, said that by storing the letters in the bank Brown Simpson "was leaving us a trail". The defence declined to offer an alternative explanation for the letters or for Brown Simpson's decision to store them in a safe deposit box, which was drilled open last year by the police.

Brown Simpson's sister, Denise, was expected to be called as a witness when the trial resumed late yesterday.

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James Pringle has found on his return to Peking that the dour city of the 1970s resembles an Asian New York

Culture revolution transforms China

The image of Mao Tse-tung gazes down on his people in 1967. A giant inflated Ronald McDonald now dominates a street in Peking

EVERY hour, the chimes on the railway station clock in Peking still ring out the revolutionary dirge that used to wake China at dawn during the Cultural Revolution. It is one of the few vestiges of that period in the booming capital of Deng Xiaoping's economic reforms.

Yesterday, on the Avenue of Eternal Peace that bisects the Chinese capital, a huge sound system was blasting out *Unchained Melody* from a display of flashing neon advertisements. In the old days, as part of the campaign to persuade Chinese to love labour, one would have had to have listened to *Down the Mountain Come the Manure Carriers*.

Last Saturday, I observed the opening of a new Peking disco. Girls in tiny leather shorts and with bare midriffs danced provocatively as a plump Chinese man sang reggae songs. During the Cultural Revolution, these girls' forebears were in pig-tails, had rosy cheeks and no make-up and were wrapped up in padded coats.

I first heard the station clock chime when I arrived in Peking in 1971, after a 36-hour train journey from Canton, to reopen the Reuter news bureau after my predecessor, Anthony Grey, who had been held under house arrest in a small room for 26 months, was released. The Cultural Revolution was still on and was not formally to end until 1976, the year of Mao Tse-tung's death.

There were no flights from Hong Kong to Canton then, and it was necessary to walk across the iron bridge into Shenzhen, then a primitive village, now a boom town of illicit trade, karaoke and sex for sale.

Then there was a large red billboard at the halfway point of the bridge, where a People's Liberation Army soldier armed with an AK47 rifle peered disparagingly at my passport as if not believing there was a Chinese visa in it.

The billboard read: "Down with the US Imperialists and all their running dogs." I assumed I was included in the latter category.

The next morning, when I woke in the East Wind Hotel in Canton, I looked out to see hundreds of people undergoing the rigours of regimented exercises.

Today, in Peking's Ritan Park, couples at a dawn open-air "altar of the sun" dance the tango to taped music. Old men swing their song birds, which were banned in the Cultural Revolution, in cages, while others practise Peking Opera. In the 1970s, only six revolutionary operas approved by Mao's wife, Jiang Qing, were permitted, such as the *Red Detachment of Women*, about a group of Red Army women struggling against landlords on Hainan Island, off the coast of south China.

As China opens up, new art forms are flooding in, and some hidden pages of recent Chinese history are coming to light. In September 1971, for example, on leaving Hong Kong, I learnt that all planes in China had been grounded. On arrival in Peking, I noticed huge earthworks all over town and discovered that finishing touches had just been made to the vast underground tunnel system to protect Peking from Soviet missile attack. It now turns out that the week I arrived in China, Marshal Lin Piao, Mao's chosen successor, had apparently tried to overthrow the chairman, and when he failed, fled by plane towards the Soviet Union. The plane either ran out of fuel or was shot down by a Chinese missile over Mongolia. Only now will Chinese officials admit that the hundreds of entrances to the 50ft-deep tunnels were opened after Marshal Lin's supposed coup attempt, because Mao feared an immediate nuclear attack from the Soviet Union. Now, the tunnel system is home to the 1,001 Nights club inside the Great World, one of the capital's biggest pleasure domes. You can sing karaoke, have a massage, dance or play mahjong where once Peking's citizens were expected to survive during a nuclear war. There are also restaurants, hotels, shops and factories underground.

However, there has also been a rise in crime. You have to keep an eye on your possessions and watch your pockets on the underground train system. Foreigners are often a particular target. "I used to feel very safe in Peking," a Chinese official said the other day. "Now it's getting to be like New York."

In the past, foreigners were not allowed on the underground and were permitted to buy only two of the country's thousands of newspapers. Now there are dozens to choose from in Peking, many full of lurid stories and pictures. In the highrise hotels of Shenzhen, or on Hainan island where the Red Detachment of Women once fought evil landlords, the visitor is immediately joined in the coffee shops by four or five pretty Chinese girls of about 19 or 20 who are not there to practise their English. Russian and Ukrainian *demi-mondaines* have returned to the bars and nightclubs of Shanghai, which in the 1960s and 1970s was China's most joyless city, the base of the Gang of Four.

> ‘ Life was hard but I have fond memories too. After all, we were young and the songs were good ’

The only Russian "invasion" these days is of thousands of traders who throng the Silk Road and Ritan market in Peking to buy Chinese clothes to sell in Russia, while up to 100,000 Chinese traders, many without papers, are settled around Moscow.

Beggars and panhandlers abound on Peking's streets, as do sellers of pirated CDs with songs by Madonna, the Sex Pistols and Pink Floyd.

Perhaps most importantly, Chinese people are prepared to talk to foreigners nowadays. Then, with only a dozen journalists in Peking, including those from Eastern Bloc countries, one had access at state banquets to China's leaders, and I several times questioned or chatted with Zhou Enlai, the Prime Minister. But reporters had almost no contact with ordinary Chinese, who sometimes fled when simply asked street directions. At other times, unused to Westerners, they would come up to within a foot of one's face and stare as if we were not quite real.

Since the suppression of pro-democracy demonstrations in June 1989, some Chinese are still diffident about going into the guarded compounds where many foreigners live. But there are no barriers to street conversations, including with the drivers of the 60,000 taxis.

These drivers, like cabbies everywhere, will talk about anything, provided you can make yourself heard above the country music they like to play full blast. But motoring is no longer a pleasure. In 1972, when I drove to the main post office about 9pm each night to send a dispatch, my vehicle would often be the only one in the whole of central Peking and it would be an eerie feeling driving the deserted streets and squares. Now, as in other Asian capitals, there are massive traffic jams and plenty of wandering night-owls. Few Chinese or foreigners mourn the passing of the era of the Cultural Revolution.

In case of an attack of nostalgia, however, one can visit restaurants such as the Good Earth and Sunflower, which are festooned with old revolutionary posters, and join the ageing former Red Guards, most of whom are in business, in a chorus of such inspirational Maoist ditties as *Three Main Points of Discipline and Eight Points for Attention*.

The terrible excesses of the Red Guards are put on one side, replaced by a kind of ultra-radical chic version of the recent past based on selective memory.

"I went down to the countryside, and life was hard, but looking back I have fond memories too," said one Chinese diner at the Good Earth recently. "After all, we were young then — and the songs were good too."

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Claims of Russian army corruption threaten Grachev

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S Defence Minister, General Pavel Grachev, came a step closer to dismissal yesterday after fresh allegations of corruption in the top ranks of the military.

General Grachev, who has come under intense public pressure to resign after his catastrophic campaign in Chechenia, went for "routine tests" at a military hospital several days ago, but has not been seen since. "The Defence Minister is still in hospital, that is all we can say on the matter," a Defence Ministry spokesman said.

In the latest attack against the beleaguered defence chief, the daily *Sevodnya* newspaper claimed that General Grachev's "illness" was caused by his falling-out with President Yeltsin at a meeting in the Kremlin on January 25. A front-page article said that the Russian leader had demanded to know details of a previously undisclosed £13 million bank account with Deutschebank opened in 1992 and held in the name of the Russian Defence Ministry.

The report of the secret account could destroy General Grachev's diminishing credibility. Last October, Dmitri Kholodov, a Russian reporter, was killed by a bomb in his office after investigating allegations of corruption involving General Grachev and the Western Army Group, formerly based in Germany.

Coupled with his disastrous handling of the campaign in Chechenia, General Grachev appears to have strained to breaking point his relationship with Mr Yeltsin, the only defence he has left against the chorus of officers, newspaper columnists and politicians calling for his resignation.

According to Western military sources, there are several candidates positioning themselves to contest the Defence Ministry portfolio once General Grachev is removed or resigns.

Colonel-General Mikhail Kolesnikov, the chief of the general staff, who yesterday presided over a meeting of the Defence Ministry's collegium in General Grachev's absence, has been tipped as a likely candidate. Another possible successor is General Andrei Nikolayev, the commander of the Border Guards, whose forces have done much of the fighting in Tajikistan.

Both men have remained largely silent in public about the Chechen operation and have thereby avoided becoming associated with either the "hawks" or the "doves" in the Government.

Reformist forces are likely to press Mr Yeltsin to appoint a civilian minister, who many believe would be better qualified to supervise the task of transforming the demoralised Russian military into a modern professional army.

While the debate over General Grachev's future is under way, there are also several key positions in the military to be filled since the sacking of three deputy ministers.

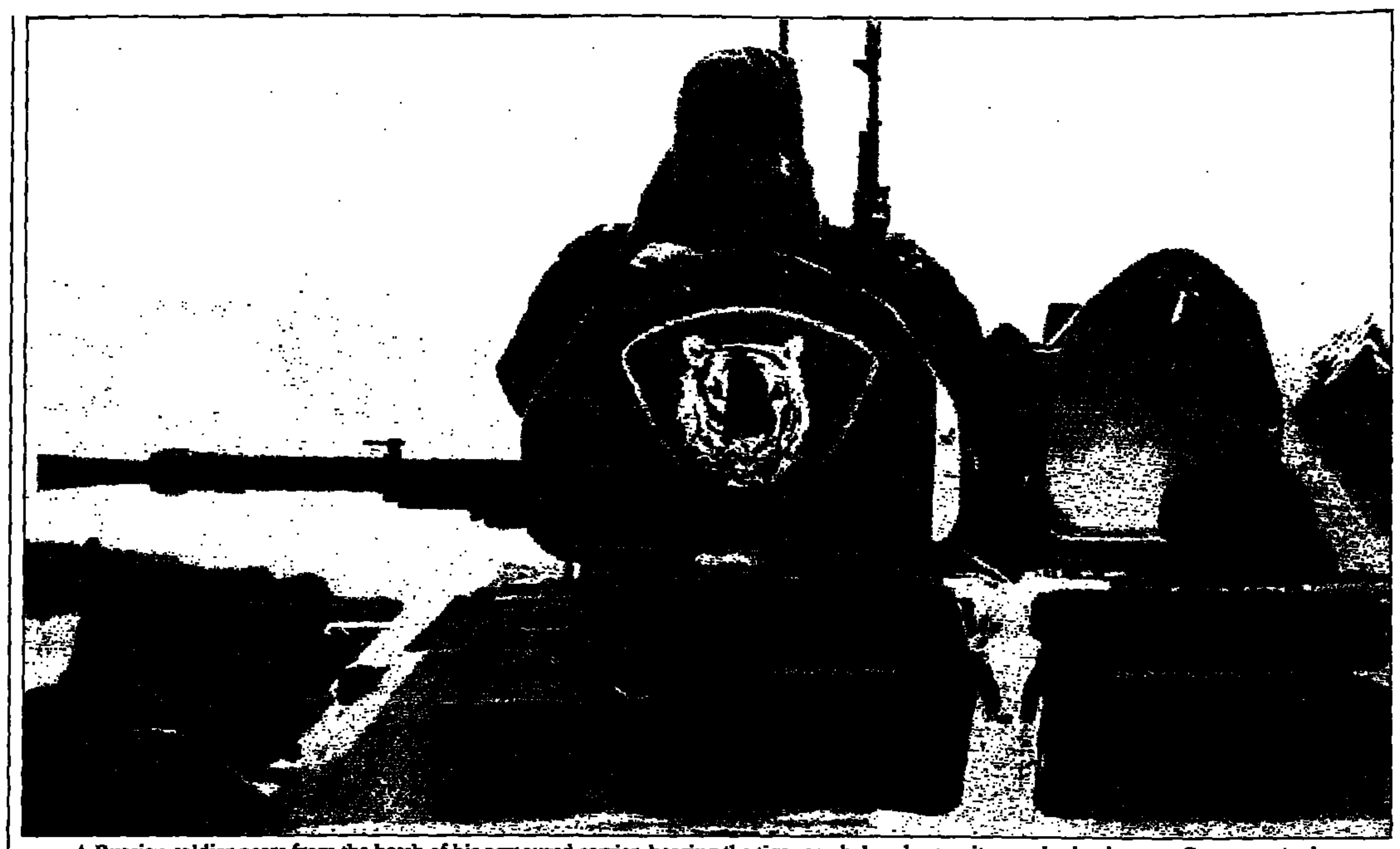
Japan 'bid for Kuriles'

BY RICHARD BEESTON

JAPAN has secretly offered to pay billions of dollars to buy back the Kurile islands, north of its mainland, which were occupied by the Russians during the Second World War and never returned.

According to a new book by Andrei Kozyrev, the Russian Foreign Minister, Japanese officials have tried to negotiate the purchase of the islands during meetings with Kremlin officials over recent years. The book, soon to be released in Moscow, recounts how on at least two occasions, before visits by former President Gorbachev in 1991 and President Yeltsin in 1993, representatives of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party suggested that they would pay $28 billion (£18 billion) for the islands.

Japan insists that the islands were seized illegally at the end of the war. Russia's refusal to negotiate over the status of the Kuriles has been the main obstacle preventing massive Japanese economic investment and assistance for Moscow.



A Russian soldier peers from the hatch of his armoured carrier, bearing the tiger symbol, as he monitors a checkpoint near Grozny yesterday

Inept strategy slows Yeltsin's war machine

FROM ANTHONY LOYD IN GROZNY

IT IS foolish to believe that courage alone is responsible for slowing significantly the Russian advance into Chechenia. Bravery has never been a match for the precise application of lethal weaponry and it is the blinding incompetence shown by the Russian military machine rather than the Chechens' spirit that is shaping the war.

The Chechen terrain is not the kind of mountain wilderness that is ideal for guerrilla resistance, like Afghanistan, but a wide, saucer-shaped plain bordered by a thin band of mountains to the south. Such country naturally favours offensive operations by the armour-heavy Russians with their air support.

Yet the Russians have concentrated their efforts in urban areas, particularly Grozny, where limited fields of fire, inferior knowledge of routes, and the defensive suitability afforded by buildings and cellars undermines their firepower assets. Initial armoured thrusts into Grozny, and more recently Samashki, have had predictably catastrophic results. Often using an amorphous blob of hastily-formed units with a high percentage of conscripts, these columns have advanced in linear formation into hostile built-up areas with little or no support from their infantry.

Here the armoured personnel carriers and tanks have been destroyed with ease by roving Chechen anti-tank units. Contrary to the inflated reputation of the Russian armour on the T72 tank, it appears to be easily overwhelmed by rocket-propelled grenades fired at close quarters, while the Russian infantry have been killed in large numbers as they get out of their APCs in unfamiliar streets dominated by Chechen fighters.

The air war seems equally inept. The Chechens have no adequate weapons to counter supersonic jets. If Dzhokhar Dudayev, their leader, anticipated war, then in the three years since his bid for independence he made no effort to acquire American warplanes. President Yeltsin's jets fly as low as they please, while armoured attack helicopters have little more to fear than medium machine-gun rounds.

Other than their courage and belief in their cause, the Chechen fighters have many disadvantages. Successful guerrilla campaigns rely on superpower backing: the Chechens have none.

Pozniak: Minsk must be ready for Russian siege

Opposition leader promises to break Belorussia's links with Moscow

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

BELORUSSIA will risk Russia's wrath and sever ties with Moscow if the opposition Popular Front wins elections on May 14, Zianon Pozniak, the front's leader, said.

"We need to break from Russia ... a criminal, bureaucratic state," said Mr Pozniak, whose party is believed to be gaining popularity and who is in London meeting MPs, police and education officials at the Government's invitation. Minsk, the Belorussian capital, is capital of the Commonwealth of Independent States — the loose economic and security group comprising all the former Soviet republics except the Baltic states — and Mr Pozniak promised to take his country out of the CIS if he wins.

"We have to prepare for a siege by Russia," he said. "I know for sure that Russia would consider invading Belorussia. All telecommunications, roads and railroads from Russia to the West go via Belorussia. We also have an important nuclear early-warning radar system," he said.

The elections will be the first parliamentary poll in Belorussia since the country declared independence from the Soviet Union in August 1991. They will be a key in helping to decide whether the country develops a market-reform economy, or reinforces cultural ties with Moscow. Parliament has been dominated by communists, but some observers believe that the Popular Front is gaining ground in traditional communist strongholds in the countryside.

In what may be a sign that President Yeltsin is concerned about the prospect of a Popular Front victory, the Russian leader is to lead a delegation to Belorussia this month to sign a new friendship agreement with President Lukashenko, who was elected last July. Mr Lukashenko this week called for a referendum, to be held at the same time as the parliamentary elections, to decide whether the old Soviet symbols should be reinstated on the nation's flag and whether Russian should rank alongside Belorussian as a national language.

Mr Pozniak said: "The chances of Russia becoming a democratic state are bleak. The impoverishment of the people makes the Government look for an external enemy, such as Chechenia. It is like Afghanistan again; they have imperialistic intentions. The Popular Front hopes to build a democratic state, regarded as mature and along the lines of those in Western Europe."

The opposition leader believes, however, that Minsk will not become another Grozny. "I know our nation and our people, we are not violent by nature."

"Yeltsin got where he is by slogans," Mr Pozniak said. "He is an old party communist and has the old mentality. He is good at leading from the top of a tank."

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Twenty years after **John Birt's** mission-to-explain article in *The Times* he returns to the theme with a critique of modern broadcasting

Why our interviewers should stop sneering and start to listen

In the 1960s and 1970s politicians rarely appeared in interviews on television or radio. Live broadcasting of news occasions was rare. There was, of course, no broadcast access to Parliament.

Now there is an open and constant political debate, sometimes developing from bulletin to bulletin. Today's politicians have to be fast on the draw.

Great dramas no longer play out behind closed doors, but right in front of the electorate. Who can forget Geoffrey Howe's dramatic resignation speech before a volatile House of Commons in 1990?

A strong feeling has developed on the part of the public that it has the right to understand what is happening in government and public institutions. There is a strong public sentiment that there should be no unnecessary secrets. The courts reflect this mood with a new readiness to conduct judicial reviews of government decisions as a check that our politicians are acting within the law.

Although much information about how the public interest is discharged is still hidden,

no ministers or public officials can feel any longer that the background to controversial decisions is likely now to remain a secret. There is less stale air in our institutions than there was 20 years ago. The searchlight shines into most, if not all, corners.

But adverse consequences arise: in particular, there may be too much disputation and too little reflection in our public life.

Disputation has always been an integral part of British culture and society. Wicked satire, puncturing the pompous and the powerful, has been with us since Aristophanes attacked demagoguery. Hogarth, Swift and Shaw all knew how to dip their pens into acid.

But alongside this long tradition of vigorous disputation, there has been another tradition — of reflection; of analytical discussion; and of the painstaking development of policy. The fear must be that the balance is swinging towards disputation and away from reflection.

The media resounds with acrimony, allegations of incompetence, demands for resignation. Rivalry between politicians, or differences within parties, are played out as a national soap opera.

Sometimes the press, broadcasting and Parliament combine in a feeding frenzy in which it is difficult to exercise cool and measured judgment.

Most importantly, the issues that lend themselves to tabloid headlines, or to a studio argy-bargy, crowd out discussion of the events and circumstances that will have a lasting impact on our lives.

Of course, serious work is still being conducted in government and among opposition policy thinkers. But I think it is reasonable to suggest that *less* of it is being conducted.

It is not surprising that research shows the public dissatisfaction with the picture of politics that emerges from the media. There is a distaste for what is seen by our viewers and listeners of politicians behaving badly.

The role of the media is an honourable one. Vigorous media expose corruption and incompetence, puncture complacency, unveil new ideas and notions, increase the creativity, vitality and dynamism of society. But there needs to be a corresponding sense of responsibility. Broadcasters need to ensure that there is a proper balance between politics and policy in our coverage. Of course, we must offer a proper opportunity for politicians to debate when there's a truly meaty policy issue between them. But we must beware the ritualistic encounter — which is little more than a brief opportunity to bicker. Such encounters generally add little of substance to general understanding and irritate our audiences, who can always spot when they are learning nothing new.

John Birt: acrimonious media

Second, broadcasters need to ensure that we address long-term as well as short-term issues.

Third, audiences will always enjoy learning about political personalities and rivalries. But let us not give these matters more weight than they are due.

Fourth, we in the media have, as I have described, a vital democratic role, but let us not forget that there is no higher democratic legitimacy than Parliament's. We can and should rigorously challenge politicians; but we should also remember that individual MPs and parties have stood before the public and have been elected by them, which we have not. Politicians have a higher claim to speak for the people than journalists.

Some journalists, sometimes, forget that. Reporters who pretend that answers and remedies are obvious: that everyone in the world but them is an incompetent fool: overbearing interviewers who sneer disdainfully at their interviewees: the sub who composes a crass and unfair headline; the columnist at his or her desk pontificating arrogantly — they all exhibit attitudes which are unattractive in a journalist, and rarely appropriate.

Journalism which recognised achievement as well as shortcomings; which accepted that all options present their difficulties; which tested dissident and established opinion with equal rigour; which recognised the world as a difficult, complex place would be better journalism.

For journalism is not an end in itself; it is a means to an end. So, fifth, we need to re-assert that journalism's highest purpose is to inform the citizenry about the events and forces which most shape their lives.

Sixth, we must strive for high standards in our journalism too. Accuracy should be sacrosanct. We must resist the gradual drift towards reporting speculation and gossip alongside provable fact.

We should reassert the value of journalists being fair and open-minded. A journalist should appreciate and weigh all sides of an argument before reporting on it.

Journalists must beware of hyping the artificial. A politician hints at a policy difference with colleagues. Responses are sought, from opposition and others. On a weak news day, the story is headlined. In subsequent bulletins and editions, senior figures come to the defence of their colleague. A crisis blows up from nowhere, like a tornado.

We in broadcasting should beware of interviewers who feel more self-important than the subject matter in hand; who like the disorientating opening question — the rabbit-punch — designed to knock off balance.

Modern media are, for the most part, overwhelmingly a force for good. They open up the democratic process. They expose politicians, policies and institutions to intense and questioning scrutiny. There has been great progress in the media in the past 30 years. To the extent that, in some measure, the modern media are a force for ill, the remedies are in our own hands.

The author is Director General of the BBC.

The public knows best on Europe

On Tuesday, *The Times* published an important article recording the Prime Minister's so-called conversion to Euro-scepticism. I still think myself as a good party man, so I describe it as a re-emphasis of his views. No more than a restatement of his article in *The Economist* on Europe and his more recent speech at Leiden.

If there is any lesson or theme to be drawn from the events since November 28, when eight of us were kicked out of the party, it is the importance that the Prime Minister attaches to party opinion and the extent to which it has become Euro sceptic.

The mood of the parliamentary party responds to constituency pressures. There never was any resentment towards those of us who lost the whip. From the first day after our explusion, colleagues have been coming up to me and others saying: "We want you back as soon as possible."

Up until Christmas, the Government tried to crush us. On December 11, the PM described the rebels without exception as self-indulgent. Then, on December 15, we lost the Dudley West by-election. It was said to be the fault of the rebels.

The same line was continued in the PM's new year letter to Conservative constituency chairmen.

Our chairmen then received letters from fellow chairmen suggesting we should be disciplined. But so far our constituencies have continued to support their members. I suggest that prominent members of Conservative associations are often better guides to public opinion than ministers.

The correspondence which we have received has shown remarkable support for Euro scepticism. We hitherto pretty obscure backbenchers have been deluged with mail from outside our constituencies.

Tony Marlow's outside mail has been running at about 200 a week. Richard Shepherd finds that 500-600 people have written to him from outside. Teddy Taylor had 421 outside letters on the three days of January 26, 27 and 30.

I suppose that Teresa Gorman is our media star. Leaving aside her personality, she has campaigned on Europe. When the *Today* programme organised a vote for the personality of 1994, the results were: 1, Roy Castle; 2, John Major; 3, Nelson Mandela; 4, Tony Blair; 5, Teresa Gorman.

Teresa is now a month behind on her mail and is getting about 700 outside letters a week. Almost all of them support her on Europe.

By chance, last week I happened to be walking from the House of Commons to the BBC premises at Millbank. A young lady whom I have never met before came up and spoke to me and said that she worked at Conservative Central Office. She said that they were inundated with letters in support of the Euro-sceptics.

> In every instance, the people want looser ties with Brussels

On January 8, the self-indulgent losers of by-elections and wreckers of party unity were spoken of in very different terms by the Prime Minister. We were "very blue Conservatives indeed in the sense of being very true blue to the hawkish wing of the Conservative Party".

British public opinion has had enough. On one issue after another, we see the practical problems of loss of sovereignty. In each instance, the people call for a looser relationship with Europe. The British people want a choice between the great parties.

There is, as this paper showed on Tuesday, every chance that they will get a chance from the Tories. It could be a winner.

NICK BUDGEN

The author is Tory MP for Wolverhampton South West

The pug and the dilettante

By excluding Hogarth from its show, the Royal Academy has done just what the champion of England would have expected

Simon Jenkins

The Eurofanatics have won a triumph. At the Royal Academy this week is an exhibition that must be viewed with suspicion. The public is served a dish of osso bucco with no trace of good English meat. "Lord Burlington, His Villa and Garden at Chiswick" is a eulogy of this wealthy showman architect, yet makes no mention of his enemy and neighbour at Chiswick, William Hogarth. Burlington without Hogarth is like Gilbert without Sullivan, Marks without Spencer. To elevate a frigid aristocrat and censor his chauvinist critic is to take sides with a vengeance. Euro-sceptics must clearly be on their guard.

First let us travel to London's western gateway, our Arc de Triomphe or Statue of Liberty. It is the Hogarth Roundabout at Chiswick, monument to the unknown road engineer. The maelstrom separates the M4 approach from the stripling M3 at what was once the Cherry Blossom polish factory. When the factory was demolished in the 1980s a civilised city would have cleared the site and opened up a distant vista of Chiswick House beyond. Instead, an office block was built. The palace built by Burlington and his friends after their Grand Tour in 1715 is glimpsed only by bearing left at the roundabout and peering through the trees.

More important is what lies to the right. Hard under the old factory wall at the start of the M4 is a small redbrick house abutting directly onto the road. Its oriel window gazes down on the millions hurtling to and from Heathrow. This is the house Hogarth bought in 1749, a decade after Burlington had completed his villa next door. While the latter oozes wealth and serenity, Hogarth House sits askew its site, forlorn, awkward and a thorough nuisance to worshippers of the great god Road.

Hogarth hated everything that Burlington stood for. Why he moved in next door to him in what were then open fields is a mystery. Both he and Burlington were already in their 50s, but Hogarth had lost none of his venom. As he watched the grandees trundle past his gate, he must have been in a frenzy, abusing them as traitors to their culture, foreigners, pagans, opera-lovers, worst of all, Italians. He could not believe that these painted fops held in their hands the fate of Shakespeare's England. What was to become of Milton, Wren, Congreve, beef, beer and the Tories?

When Burlington returned from Europe at the age of 20, he brought with him 878 pieces of luggage, an obsession with Italian architecture and the patronage of the new Hanoverian monarchs. Within a year he was Lord Lieutenant of Yorkshire and Lord High Treasurer of Ireland. He sacked the great James Gibbs as architect of Burlington House in London. Wren and Hawksmoor were ousted from court commissions. English baroque was declared dead. Burlington had also brought from Rome an Italianised Yorkshire painter and designer, "Signior" William Kent, who stayed with Burlington all his life. The young man replaced the history painter James Thornhill at court. John Gay and Alexander Pope, who both enjoyed Burlington's patronage, duly acclaimed Kent as the equal of Raphael. The interiors at Chiswick are his masterpiece.

Meanwhile, Hogarth was making a name and healthy income as an engraver. He was exuberant and talkative but wholly without tact. He loathed the smooth, fat and florid Kent and the Burlington retinue of "imitators and mannerists". Hogarth never went to Italy. When he once visited France he ridiculed everything he saw at the top of his voice, and was finally arrested and deported as a spy. French houses were "all gilt and beshit". He used his narrative paintings — *A Rake's Progress, A Harlot's Progress, Marriage à la Mode, An Election* — to maintain a ceaseless war on the aesthetic and moral corruption that "foreigners" were bringing to England. Immorality and debauchery always took place against a Palladian backdrop. Few of his prints failed to taunt Burlington and Kent. They were immensely popular.

It is hard not to side with Hogarth, "the common sense English pug", against the effete Burlingtonians. By excluding him from its show, the Royal Academy has done just what he would have expected. The walls of the exhibition are filled with exquisite prints of obelisks, columns and rustic arches, the sleak Modernism of the age of the Grand Tour. At this week's private view, I watched today's neo-Palladians tiptoeing from picture to picture, lips pursed in admiration. I longed for the little round man, his good dog Trump at his heels, to come charging through the gallery, bellowing, "Out of my sight, you starveling Pansies. Out, you godless Romans with your set squares, opera singers, porticoes and painted faces. Make way for the Roast Beef of Old England! Come back Wren, Gibbs, spires, steeples, the Line of Beauty, the Church of England!"

To Hogarth the entire West End, in which Burlington's London house (the present Royal Academy) was situated, was a sink of iniquity. It was nothing but Whigs, prostitutes and Papists. Honest men lived in the City of London. As for Italian art, it was "dead Christs, holy families, Madonas and dismal, dark objects". If people wanted to consort with a foreigner, what was wrong with Rembrandt?

Hogarth had some allies. He had Fielding and Garrick. He had the governors of Bart's Hospital, whose staircase he offered to decorate free rather than see the commission go to a foreigner named Amigoni. He had his membership of the xenophobic Beafsteak Club. But his talent was to madden. He antagonised not just the cultural grandees of early Georgian England but also men of sound judgment such as Reynolds and Dr Johnson. He opposed the new Royal Academy as Frenchified cultural dictatorship.

The politician John Wilkes began as a natural friend, but when he joined the war party he too was selected for caricature, his face cruelly distorted. He accused Hogarth of having a "rare talent for gibbeting in colours". Like many talented men, Hogarth craved company but found its compromises intolerable. He loved to attack but hated being attacked. When Wilkes finally savaged him, he wailed that such treatment "could not but hurt a feeling mind".

Hogarth was by then ageing. He retreated to Chiswick, where Burlington's parterres were now spreading on all sides. His last print was of Father Time expiring, a church in ruins, his pipe, pallet and blunderbuss broken and the whole world at a crazy angle. England was going to the dogs, carried by a cartload of foreigners who could only imitate antiquity. They had no feel for the glorious diversity of English art. Hogarth is buried, like Burlington, in Chiswick Church. Burlington is inside in a classical tomb, Hogarth lies under the stars.

What fun the Academy could have had with this battle. Instead, the patron saint of cultural chauvinism is ignored, left alone in his brick box by the M4. Someone should erect a placard for incoming visitors: Here Lived Hogarth — You are in England!

NATIONAL GALLERY

Marriage à la Mode II (shortly after the marriage) — Hogarth's satire on fashionable alliances

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Great escapism

THE THREE prisoners who broke out of Parkhurst at the beginning of January are still dining out on their escapade. Keith Rose, who is serving a life sentence for murder, has written to the BBC requesting a tape of a recent edition of Radio 4's comedy programme *Weekending*, which featured jokes about the breakout.

Rose, 45, whose haircut has a touch of the Bobby Charlton scrapeover, is desperate to hear what it said. "I understand that, following the escape of myself and two others from Parkhurst, that week's edition of *Weekending* was an absolute classic," he writes. "As the three of us missed that edition — we were rather busy with other things — please, please send us a tape."

Gareth Edwards, the producer of *Weekending*, is flattered and has obliged. "It's a very popular programme with prisoners. They are a captive audience. It's good escapism for them. We don't normally do this kind of thing, but we made an exception in this case — it's only fair, they've given us more than enough material."

The tape is full of dubious gags such as the tips on how to guarantee your prison stays in the news — hold ladder-building carpentry classes. The Prison Service is relaxed about letting the prisoners have the tape. "We're only worried about things that are dangerous in terms of security. I don't think this counts."

Lucky punt

IF THERE is an extra spring in the step of the Scottish rugby captain Gavin Hastings when he runs on to the pitch to play Ireland at Murrayfield today, it can be put down to a turn around in his fortunes. He won top prize — a weekend for two at Gleneagles — in a Burns Night raffle at an Edinburgh hotel where he was guest of honour.

Egg flip

THE STRANGEST of literary groupies are expected in London this autumn when the Royal Society of Literature holds an auction at Sotheby's to raise money for the renovation of a Somerset cottage to be used as a writers' retreat.

Some peculiar items, including John Mortimer's legal wig, have arrived at the society's London headquarters for the auction. The strangest lot so far is a soiled jersey owned by two poets in succession: Edmund Blunden and Dylan Thomas. Victoria Glendinning, who is organising the auction, says: "It's got some egg stains. We're not sure whose they are."

● *The PC tipple has arrived. Kettners restaurant in Soho offers on its wine list a Napa Valley Chardonnay "noted for its crisp taste and political correctness" at £18.50 a bottle. "Bottled in recycled glass; there is no lead on the top as the cork is sealed with beeswax; it is fermented in new French oak. And even the label is edible."*

Gum ho!

EYEBROWS shot skywards at *The Oldie* magazine's lunch at Simpson's-in-the-Strand yesterday. Spike Milligan was named Oldie of the Year and the loudest applause came when Terry Major-Ball (Big Brother of the Year) sat down after an interminable speech. But the extraction of Lord Healey's teeth caused the greatest stir.

He complained that journalists always interrupt him at inconvenient moments. "I've usually just taken my teeth out and am sitting with my feet up when the phone goes," he explained.

"So I can't speak properly." He then proceeded to grapple with his dentures, eventually tearing them free and brandishing them proudly aloft with a gummy grin.

Teeth trouble is not, however, the reason why he has been so quiet on the Lords' benches of late. "It's the House of the living dead and some of them aren't living. I don't speak very often because I only speak about issues I'm interested in," he said.

Royal circus

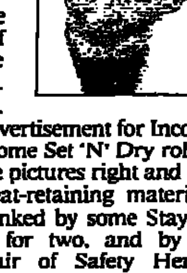
THE PRINCE of Wales caused consternation in the stalls at the Royal Opera House in London when he arrived for the premiere of Walton's *Troilus and Cressida* this week. Instead of sitting in the Royal Box (bad sight line), he plumped for the front row of the Royal Circle.

It meant some people in the stalls could not see when the Prince arrived. They stood up when told of his arrival, saw he wasn't in the Royal Box, and sat down. Uncertainty reigned, however, so many bobbed up, sat down, then stood again.

A fanfare started so everyone finally settled in, thinking it was the start of the opera. Not so — the trumpets heralded the start of the National Anthem. "Absolute chaos," muttered an opera buff in the gods. "It looked like a Mexican wave of aristocrats. The chap should sit where he's meant to."

At home with the Howards?

MY NOTE this week about the middle-aged modelling activities of the Home Secretary's wife, Sandra Howard, prompted a reader to send in a January catalogue from a mail order company. *Home Free* offers an eclectic range of goods including bra-extenders, a vibrating hairbrush and gardening tights for men (the mind boggles). Pictures of Mrs Howard feature throughout the catalogue. She is always smiling. Directly underneath an advertisement for Incontinence Pants, she models some Set 'N' Dry rollers and a Quick-Dry hood (see pictures right and left) fashioned of "flexible, heat-retaining material". Her demure looks are flanked by some Staycup Bust Supports at £9.95 for two, and by an uncomfortable-looking pair of Safety Hernia Pants. On another page, she sports It's a Wrap, the hair towel that stays put — a snip at £8.95.



P·H·S

STRESS ON THE BEAT

The police at Hillsborough were in the line of duty

Fourteen police officers are each set to receive compensation of up to £250,000 for trauma suffered at the Hillsborough football disaster six years ago. Not surprisingly, this news has been met by a compound of disbelief, dismay and derision. The prospective pay-outs have outraged those relatives of the 96 dead who have received nothing for their own suffering. Richard Wells, the Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police, is reported to be "deeply embarrassed".

Some might prefer, however, to describe him as deeply pragmatic: the advice tendered by counsel for the insurers for South Yorkshire Police, Municipal Mutual, was that there was a high probability of losing the action in court. The case has drawn attention to the disappointing state in this country of the law relating to liability for psychiatric illness.

There can be no objection per se to legal actions for psychiatric harm due to physical injury caused to others. That English law recognises such actions cannot be questioned after cases such as *McLoughlin v. O'Brian* and *Alcock v. Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police* — itself to do with the Hillsborough disaster. Problems arise, however, in two ways: first, in relation to the amount of damages. The recent example of businessman Peter Vernon, awarded £1.2 million by a court for "post traumatic stress disorder" after he watched his daughters drown, shows how far removed from reality — and how uncaring for the taxpayer — compensation awards can be.

The second problem, faced most acutely in the example of the 14 Hillsborough policemen, arises in regard to the kinds of persons entitled to make claims. Should police officers (and firemen, soldiers, nurses and ambulance workers) be entitled to make claims for damages for stress in the manner of ordinary citizens? Under English law, there would appear to be no bar to their doing so, especially if trauma were incurred in the course of a rescue action. This, surely, is not in the public interest. The policemen at the Hillsborough ground on the day of the disaster were on duty. They were paid to be there, in pursuit of a calling freely entered into, the terms and conditions of which will have been apparent to them from the moment they considered a life in uniform.

Theirs was an informed decision, just as a fireman's decision to join the Fire Brigade is an informed one, or a soldier's to join the armed forces. Stress, tension, strain and trauma are all — to use the compelling vocabulary of common sense — "part of the deal". Members of the emergency services are employed to take risks: that fact has led some American courts to deny liability against persons whose actions create the danger. This approach, the "fireman's rule", has much to commend it. The Hillsborough claims ought, similarly, to be dismissed under a "policeman's rule".

The real problem is one of knowing where to draw the line. The ultimate boundaries within which claims for damages can be entertained must not be divorced from considerations of public policy and logic. In his judgment in the *Alcock* case, Lord Oliver wrote that he could not, for his part, "regard the present state of law as either entirely satisfactory or as logically defensible". It is revealing to learn, however, that the limits on causes of action — and not an absence of them — were at the root of his irritation. A team of law commissioners, under Professor Andrew Burrows, is now working on a consultation paper on liability for psychiatric illness, expected to be published in March. So often a greater source of wisdom than the judiciary, the Law Commission cannot afford to ignore the lessons of Hillsborough.

SELECTIVE ARGUMENT

Oxford should keep its entrance examination

Oxford University's entrance examination is not one of its oldest traditions. It is, however, one of its best. Next week, the university is expected to abolish the test on the spurious ground that it favours candidates from private schools. This would be a disservice to all applicants and is based on a complete underestimation of the system's virtues.

Under present arrangements, not all candidates for a coveted place at one of Oxford's 28 undergraduate colleges need sit the written papers. Those who prefer to pin their academic future on their A-level results may do so. It is possible to apply for a place at Oxford conditional on obtaining excellent marks — normally, three or more grade As. About 40 per cent of applicants choose this route before or after they have taken their summer examinations.

More than half, however, do not. In 1993, for example, 2,309 applicants from state schools and 2,519 from the independent sector chose to take the entrance examination route. This involves two or three papers in the relevant subject, followed — if colleges are interested — by interviews in which candidates are questioned on what they have written. The applicant is generally informed before Christmas of success or failure.

In spite of what seems like a gale of opinion in Oxford's cloisters against the 30-year-old inter-collegiate test, there are good reasons to retain the existing system. First, it is a highly appropriate selection procedure for Oxford to use. Teaching at the university focuses on the preparation of essays for dons for discussion in a weekly tutorial; candidates for degrees are often subjected to a "viva voce" examination on the basis of their Finals scripts. The applicant who does well in an entrance examination is likely to prosper as an undergraduate.

Secondly, the test has merits as a method of selecting the brightest applicants which A levels do not have. Many who achieve high grades in these summer examinations do so because of excellent coaching or simple industry. Many of the most promising teenagers do not do well at A level. The Oxford entrance test is good at encouraging the truly talented to spread their wings and show their prospective tutors how well they may eventually do. A mediocre essay on the Reformation may be redeemed by an inspired examination of Churchill's war record. In the past, Oxford examiners have tended to look for strengths rather than weaknesses. Most candidates seem to find the written tests fair and challenging.

If, as the university claims, "the issue is one of equity", then it should certainly keep the existing examination. The argument that its abolition will help state school applicants is misconceived. For clever pupils from less privileged backgrounds, the Oxford interview is often the most overwhelming aspect of the process. The written test gives them a chance to show their abilities before this cross-examination. Many applicants fail disastrously at interview but secure a place on the basis of answers they have written weeks before. For those who find the ancient universities daunting, there could be no more equitable method of selection. It would be sad if Oxford squandered its excellent system for such ill-conceived reasons.

THEY CAN'T CAN'T

Why the Paris protectionists should care for the Crazy Horse

The can-can is said to be *passé*. Our Arts Editor reports today that the cabaret scene, which once defined the Parisian *esprit* as surely as existentialists, sardonic waiters and avant-garde driving conventions, is in decline. From the Folies Bergère to the Moulin Rouge, the Lido to the Crazy Horse, French cabarets are claiming that they find it increasingly hard to high-kick a living.

The shows have been hit by a sequence of troubles ranging from terrorist bomb attacks to a lengthy world recession: the French Government's obsession with the *franc fort* has made night jaunts too extravagant for the plastic of many tourists. The most serious threat, however, has come from a modern craze for techno-extravaganza instead of live shows. Lasers, ice rinks, state-of-the-art video and virtual reality microchips are replacing the traditional feathers and glimpses of quivering thigh. Lines of belles wearing cornucopias of mixed fruit, flowers and birds on their heads above frills of undress are felt to be old-fashioned and even politically incorrect. Chorus girls, once picked for their prancing abilities during Offenbach's *Orpheus in the Underworld*, now need more sophisticated dancing talents.

This is as shocking news as if the French supporters travelling to today's rugby international were to express appreciation of Twickenham's depressing set menu of greasy onions in stale buns; or if they were to arrive without the Dax town band and a concealed cockerel; or if Pierre Berbizier's disciplined defence team were to play instead of the natural French game of flair and fallibility.

Chorus girls dancing the can-can and squealing "oo-la-la!" have been the *pièces de résistance* of the Parisian night for a century and a half, and their resistance can never have been total, given their tradition of marrying into the English aristocracy. Toulouse-Lautrec's posters of La Goulue, Jane Avril and the other high-kickers proclaim Paris in the way that policemen in blue centurions' helmets say London and men in kilts say Edinburgh.

A country has a duty to preserve its cultural images, for the sake of the tourists. Even though pearly kings and queens have less role than saris and turbans in contemporary Cockney life, they are as important to the London image as black taxis and red double-decker buses. Attempts to replace the last with cabs and buses of many colours are blots on the street scene and disappoint the tourists, photographers and cartoonists.

Although excitingly modern, virtual reality by laser in the "follies" might just as well be seen in Las Vegas or Soho, Singapore or Sun City. Where, in this sad scene, is the champion of all things French, Jack Lang? His Government's normal contempt for the calculations of the commercial box office is the envy of Britain's impresarios. France almost wrecked the Gatt for the sake of what it calls the *exception culturelle*, the national right to protect French culture from foreign competition. The fight to keep foreign programmes from French television screens is a cause that technology will bury. In the "follies", France has a world-beater. M Lang should abandon his obsession with *l'audiovisuel*, and place his bets on the Crazy Horse.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Prizes and pitfalls in an Irish 'framework' solution

From the Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland

Sir, The reaction to the period which has followed a ceasefire has convinced the vast majority of people in Northern Ireland of the benefits of peace. What is now obvious is that real and lasting reconciliation involves much more than an absence of violence.

Courage, vision and the willingness to understand and respect the diversity of genuine fears of others are essential ingredients in the peace process. Such a process is as much about how we travel towards a solution as it is about the ultimate conclusions.

Leaks and rumours do nothing to aid the process and in fact are totally counter-productive. There will always be moments of tension and real difficulty as we move towards a political settlement.

What must not be overlooked or ignored by the British or Irish Governments, politicians, community leaders or commentators is the fact that behind the headlines is a community which has endured years of death and misery. We will ignore the human reaction of such people at our peril. The cost of a failure to reach political agreement which will provide a way of hope and understanding for both communities is beyond belief.

This is therefore a time when all in positions of public responsibility should exercise the greatest degree of sensitivity. The balance of conflicting views is paramount to success. But lasting peace and reconciliation will never emerge if the genuine feelings of one community are perceived to have been accommodated at the cost of a failure to be sensitive to the equally genuine feelings of another.

It is essential that any period of doubt or uncertainty is removed as quickly as possible. The element of consent cemented by a referendum already emphasised by the British and Irish Governments must remain the ultimate sanction. This element should provide Unionists with confidence and nationalists with opportunity.

Yours faithfully,
†ROBERT ARMAGH:,
The See House,
Cathedral Close, Armagh.
February 2.

From Mr H. D. Edmunds

Sir, There can be no compromise between a united Ireland and the United Kingdom. Northern Ireland must belong to one or the other and this decision must be taken by the electors of Northern Ireland.

Everyone wishes to preserve the fragile peace, but it will not satisfy the IRA to have a fudged framework document which the people and politicians of Northern Ireland reject. Only one inducement can properly be given to the IRA: put your proposals for a united Ireland to the people of Northern Ireland through Sinn Fein, which is a lawful political party. Seek their free support, let the people vote, and if the vote is "No" let the people vote again in due course. Keep the peace, because violence loses votes.

Democratic reform can easily be put in place. It does not require any substantive agreement. I propose a five-point plan:

1. The United Kingdom to adopt the European Convention on Human Rights.
2. The Northern Irish Assembly to be revived with specific responsibility to protect the human rights of all of the population. This should prevent past abuses recurring.
3. Legislation to permit the people of Northern Ireland to vote directly on constitutional issues.
4. Referendums to be held if the Assembly decides or an appropriate number of electors require.
5. The Westminster Parliament to enact legislation to carry out the decision of the people.

These policies do not guarantee success, but I believe that they offer the best chance of success. If the people of Northern Ireland cannot agree upon their future then no one else can agree on their behalf and no solution can be imposed.

Yours faithfully,
H. D. EDMUNDS,
10a Risca Road, Newport, Gwent.
February 2.

From Mr David R. Brewster

Sir, Your editorial of February 1, "Governors of Ireland", quite rightly points out that a joint framework document of the type disclosed by your report can only lead to joint authority and eventual reunification. It is therefore self-evident that it will not lead to peace.

Ten years on, the Government has not been able to produce a single Unionist of whatever hue who is prepared to support or work within the framework of the Anglo-Irish Agreement. That accord was a much more modest document than the proposals apparently under consideration by the Government.

It would not be unreasonable for Unionists to expect their elected representatives to withdraw support from a Government prepared to endorse a document so dangerous for the Union.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID R. BREWSTER
(Chairman, Ulster Young Unionist Council, 1991-93),
27 Bells Hill,
Limavady, Co Londonderry.
February 1.

From the Secretary of The Friends of the Union

Sir, I am very surprised that The Friends of the Union has unwittingly caused so much excitement in the press recently. For the last eight years I have run the organisation, with the valuable advice and support of our trustees, patrons and members.

We provide a forum for serious and constructive discussion of Northern Ireland from a Unionist point of view, providing links with Unionists in Northern Ireland who, as we know, often feel isolated.

We have published more than 20 pamphlets and briefing papers, though none by your assistant editor, Matthew d'Ancona (report, February 1). He has attended only one of our meetings, together with other journalists — a weekend conference last April.

This conference was opened by the Northern Ireland Minister, Michael Ancram, MP, who said "it is vitally important that Ministers should be open to the wide spectrum of pro-Union opinion . . . The Friends of the Union provides us with that opportunity".

I am, yours faithfully,
LISL BIGGS-DAVISON, Secretary,
The Friends of the Union,
PO Box 1261, London SW3 4JF.
February 3.

Lakeland walks on the wild side

From Mr J. D. Foster

Sir, Everyone marvels at the draughtsmanship of Alfred Wainwright's original guidebooks, smiles at the gentle humour and the cultivated image of Northern irascible misogyny, appreciates the love of all animals which he showed in so many practical ways; but I doubt whether a majority of his admirers would want to see a memorial to him erected in his own beloved Lake District (letters, January 27, 30). There are many reasons. Here are three:

1. As most of Wainwright's later works were just pot-boilers it is the guidebooks which must be the justification. Anyone who has been walking in the Lake District for the past 40 years will know that he has been the cause of much erosion. His own favourite Innominate Tarn is now surrounded by eroded paths, bleached and dusty in summer heat, a quagmire in winter.

It is the same for many of the routes which Wainwright describes so delectably. Normal usage would not have produced this effect on so many of Wainwright's chosen routes on the hills. Do we want to commemorate the accelerator of erosion?

2. Many of his admirers take to the hills clutching one of his guidebooks without the necessary skills in map-reading and compass navigation. His beautiful drawings and diagrams make hill-walking look so easy that the reality of bad weather on the hills is not appreciated. Not his fault, of course, but . . .

3. Would Wainwright have wanted it? He seems to have been a modest, even retiring man — at least until television got hold of him. I doubt whether he would have thought that his feats were so remarkable as to merit the outdoor equivalent of Westminster Abbey. Let his supporters be content with the pub named after him in Chapel Stile, near Ambleside. He liked a pint and I think would have preferred this to an over-solemn memorial.

Yours faithfully,
J. D. FOSTER,
Brantbeck, 22 Moorside Road,
Brookhouse, Lancaster.
February 2.

From Mr George Walker

Sir, I would have thought that a most suitable memorial to Alfred Wainwright is already in place. This is a slate plaque on a window ledge in Buttermere church, beautifully inscribed:

"Pause and remember Alfred Wainwright. Fellwalker, guide book author and illustrator who loved this valley. Lift your eyes to Haystacks, his favourite place. 1907-1991."

You look over to Haystacks as you read it, in this much visited church in one of the loveliest parts of Lakeland.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE WALKER,
Porthkerry, 53 Oxford Road,
Bodicote, Banbury, Oxfordshire.

Church and politics

From the Right Reverend Hugh Montefiore

Sir, Miss Tingle and Mr Tinker, writing from the Christian Studies Centre (letter January 27), repeat the claim made earlier by that centre that the Anglican Church is increasingly involved in secular politics. Increasingly?

Looking back to the earlier archbishops of this century, Lang made his maiden speech in the Lords in 1909 on the "People's Budget"; Davidson in 1918 set up a Commission on Industrial Problems; Garbett, who had called unemployment "the factory of the unemployable", published in 1933 *The Challenge of our Slums*; and Temple in 1938 produced *Men without Work*.

Fisher in 1954 described the Government's proposals to set up Independent Television as a "bad Bill"; Ramsey in 1965 pronounced on the use of force in Rhodesia; Coggan in 1975 issued "a call to the nation", asking "what sort of society do we want?"; and Runcie in 1983 initiated *Faith in the City*.

Would not a more historical perspective assist the pursuit of Christian studies?

Yours faithfully,
†HUGH MONTEFIORE,
White Lodge, 23 Bellevue Road,
Wandsworth Common, SW17.
January 30.

From the Reverend David Crouchley

Sir, Miss Tingle and Mr Tinker write about "recent utterances from bishops" and inform us of a statement made by the recently enthroned Bishop of Rochester, the Right Reverend Michael Nazir-Ali.

What revolutionary, left-wing statement did the bishop make? We are told that it was that resources should be "fairly . . . shared out according to need as well as ability".

If Miss Tingle and Mr Tinker study the Gospels they will see that the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of Rochester and thousands of clergy and lay persons up and down the country are not promoting left-wing values, but Christian values.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID CROUCHLEY,
10 Wordsworth Street,
Penrith, Cumbria.
January 28.

Highland rail axing

From Mr Ian N. Tegner

Sir, Members of the House of Lords are not the only ones who will suffer inconvenience and stress if the West Highland Line sleeper and motor-rail services are axed (report, January 30).

As current senior steward of the Argyllshire Gathering, which seeks to play its part in tourism through promotion of Highland culture — games, piping and dancing — I see yet another nail being driven into the coffins of the rural parts of these islands and of the West Highlands in particular.

What is so utterly depressing is the clear evidence of increasing government indifference to the welfare of outlying parts of the country.

The steady abandonment of public transport services is exacerbated by massive increases in motor fuel taxes, which are in themselves perfectly justifiable but which hit hardest at those who have to travel long distances for even the most basic requirements, as well as those who wish to visit areas where tourism has become the only real economic mainstay.

The advance of technology could lead to a resurgence of economic activity in the area if only the Government had a sane, coherent and constructive approach to better use of the existing infrastructure.

Yours faithfully,
IAN N. TEGNER,
44 Norland Square, W11.
January 30.

From Mr Peter D. Brown

Sir, May I add the voice of the ordinary mountaineer and hillwalker to the Lords' campaign against the plan to end the West Highland sleeper and motor-rail services — as well as putting in a word for skiers and other outdoor enthusiasts who use these trains as the only efficient means of taking a short break to the wilds of Scotland?

The sleeper is especially useful in winter, when the roads may be at best "unpredictable". It is also a breathtakingly beautiful way for visitors to Scotland to catch their first glimpse of Highland scenery.

The alternative sleeper services to Glasgow are of no use for short trips to the Highlands, as the onward stage of the journey occupies most or all of the morning of arrival, and similarly the afternoon of departure.

Yours sincerely,
PETER D. BROWN,
11 Devonia Road, N1.
January 27.

Breast screening

From Mrs Anne Faulkner

Sir, The comment by Mr Ian Fentiman (letter, February 1) on the need for breast screening in older women is timely. In my area a circular has been sent to women of 65 and over to inform them that they would not be recalled for further mammograms unless their consultant requested it. This included women who had had surgery for breast cancer in the past five years.

I am sure that these women would take up the offer of further mammography with eagerness; they know the consequences of a tumour not being diagnosed speedily.

Yours truly,
ANNE FAULKNER,
Longfield, 4 One Tree Lane,
Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire.
February 2.

Bank bashing

From Mr T. G. H. Taylor

Sir, It came as no surprise that it was the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation which bought the Midland Bank in 1992 rather than the other way around, nor that Mr Munden's letter about the convenience of banking services in Hong Kong was published on the same day as rumours of TSB being bought by another foreign institution (report and letter, January 26).

Sadly, retail banking in this country is deplorable, which is why banking generally is held in such low esteem by customers and so suffers the annual bashing mentioned by Mr Munden.

The cause? The banks bask in their Captain Mainwaring mentality of pompous arrogance without any idea what their customers actually want.

Mr Munden cites one example of Hong Kong service; I could another. Every month I received a statement showing my current account, savings account and credit card account, all in one statement with a net balance of all three. So simple; so useful; so difficult for UK banks to understand.

The outcome? In order to obtain the range of services I want now, I have to keep accounts with four different banks and two building societies. None of the accounts is large, the administrative overheads are high and it is a waste of my time and the banks'.

They must either start offering the services that their customers want to use instead of only those which they want to sell, or wait to be picked off one by one by 20th and 21st-century competitors.

Yours,
T. G. H. TAYLOR,
1 Hulbert Road,
Bedhampton, Havant, Hampshire.
January 26.

Weekend Money letters, page 31

Crossed line?

From Dr Paul A. F. Hewish

Sir, I wonder how often Sir Iain Vallance of BT gets called out of bed in the night in connection with his work?

Yours faithfully,
PAUL HEWISH,
The Health Centre,
Bartholomew Avenue,
Goole, North Humberside.
February 1.

Written in the stars?

From Mrs Mariegold Cowsill

Sir, Mr Gerry Lynas states (letter, January 25) that Leos do not believe in astrology.

We Gemini are in two minds about it.

Yours faithfully,
MARIEGOLD COWSILL,
Ulan, Lower Swell,
Stow-on-the-Wold,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.
January 30.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

All at sea

From Mr Phil Pratt

Sir, Matthew Parris ("*MV Bottomley* surges past dazed penguins", February 1) is surely mistaken when he describes the vessel as giving "three blasts on the ship's whistle and she was away". International collision regulations for ships at sea rule that three blasts mean "I am operating astern propulsion" — as unlikely a signal from the *MV Bottomley*, I would have thought, as two blasts signifying "I am altering course to port".

Yours faithfully,
PHIL PRATT,
73 Peterborough Road, SW6.
February 1.

Shakespeare's mafia

From Mr Gerald Kaufman, MP for Manchester Gorton (Labour)

Sir, Benedict Nightingale, in his review of *Love's Labour's Lost* (February 2), wantonly libels Dogberry and "his chums" by describing them as "ineptly patrolling" the Messina of *Much Ado*. It is, in fact, that very same Dogberry and his chums who catch the villains, supply a resolution to the play's convoluted plot and, far from incidentally, provide a splendid example of community policing.

Yours sincerely,
GERALD KAUFMAN,
House of Commons.
February 2.

Lottery odds

From Miss Wendy Richmond and others

Sir, We have been studying the National Lottery as an exercise in probability for our A-level mathematics. We have calculated that if every Giggleswick pupil over 16 (130) enters each week there will only be one jackpot winner in the next 1,832 years.

We have therefore advised our fellow pupils to keep working and not hope to escape by gambling — which is against school rules anyway!

Yours faithfully,
WENDY RICHMOND,
REBECCA WINTER,
SACHA YARWOOD
(The Lower Sixth Further Maths Set),
Giggleswick School,
Settle, North Yorkshire.
February 2.

COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK
February 3: The Queen this afternoon visited the Dersingham Seniors Club, King's Lynn, Norfolk, and was received by the Chairman (Mr Ronald Stone).

Lady Dugdale and Mr Simon Gimson were in attendance.

Her Majesty and The Duke of Edinburgh were represented by Air Vice Marshal Peter Harding (Defence Services Secretary) at the Service of Thanksgiving for the *Life of Rear Admiral Sir David* Allen (formerly Defence Services Secretary) which was held in St Mary's Church, Shapwick, this afternoon.

The Duke of York was represented by Captain Neil Blair, R.N.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 3: The Princess Royal this morning visited The Queen's Flight at Royal Air Force Benson, Oxfordshire.

Her Royal Highness, Patron, National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, this afternoon opened the new premises of Thame and District Citizens Advice Bureau, Market House, Upper High Street, Thame, and was received by Lieutenant Colonel Robert Heywood-Lonsdale (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire).

Mrs Andrew Feilden was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE, ST JAMES'S PALACE
February 3: The Duchess of Kent this *morning* opened the Royal Mail Automated Processing Centre, Radge Road, Beeston, Nottinghamshire, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Nottinghamshire (Sir Andrew Buchanan, Bt.).

Her Royal Highness this afternoon opened the Clumber Day Care Centre and new link building, Clarendon College, Pelham Avenue, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire.

Mrs Peter Troughton was in attendance.

Birthdays

TODAY: Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Ashmore, 74; Mr John Bird, former MEP, 69; Mr Colin Black, chairman, Scottish Widows' Fund and Life Assurance Society, 65; the Hon Sir Clive Bossom, former MP, 77; Mr Jim Cunningham, MP, 54; Dr P.E. Thompson Hancock, oncologist, 91; Lord Haslam, 72; the Earl of Hillsborough, 36; Mr R.C. Hoban, writer, 70; the Marquess of Huntly, 51; Mr David Malouf, novelist, 61; the Hon Mrs Ray Michie, MP, 61; Lord Moncreiff, 80; Mr Stanley Newens, MEP, 65; Mr Justice Nicholson, 62; Mr Tim O'Sullivan, former governor, Holloway Prison, 52; Mr Charles Pollard, chief constable, Thames Valley, 50; Mr William Ross, MP, 59; Mr Richard Ryder, MP, 46; Lord Shawcross, QC, 93; Mr John Willan, former managing director, London Philharmonic Orchestra, 52; Mr Norman Wisdom, actor and comedian, 80; the Most Rev Derek Worlock, *Archbishop* of Liverpool, 75.

TOMORROW: Mr Jack Aspinwall, MP, 62; Mr Robert Atkins, MP, 49; Sir Norman Blacklock, urologist, 67; Mr Jasper Clutterbuck, executive chairman, Morland and Company, 60; Major-General Sir Simon Cooper, Master of HM's Household, 59; Mr Ian Findlay, former chairman, Lloyd's, 77; Lord Gibson, 79; Mrs Molly Hattersley, educationist, 64; Miss Susan Hill, novelist and playwright, 53; Professor Sir Alan Hodgkin, OM, *former master*, Trinity College, Cambridge, 81; the Hon Douglas Hogg, QC, MP, 50; General Sir Geoffrey Howlett, 65; Mr M.E.P. Jones, director, National Museums of Scotland, 44; Mr Dennis Kennedy, chairman, Honeywell, 60; Wing Commander R.A.B. Learoyd, VC, 82; Mr David Martin, MP, 50; Lord Justice Morritt, 57; Mr Frank Muir, writer and broadcaster, 75; Professor A.M. Neville, former principal and vice-chancellor, Dundee University, 72; Miss Charlotte Rampling, actress, 49; Canon Colin Semper, former Provost of Coventry, 57; Sir Rodney Sweetnam, orthopaedic surgeon, 68; Lord Williams of Mostyn, QC, 54; Sir Leslie Young, former chairman, British Waterways Board, 70.

Anniversaries

TODAY: BIRTHS: Pierre Marivaux, novelist and dramatist, Paris, 1688; George Lillo, dramatist, London, 1693; Carl Bellman, songwriter, Stockholm, 1740; Tadeusz Kosciusko, Polish patriot, Mereczowczezyna, 1746; William Harrison Ainsworth, novelist, Manchester, 1805; Fernand Léger, painter, Argenton, France, 1881; Edwin Pratt, poet, Western Bay, Newfoundland, 1883; Charles Lindbergh, aviator, Detroit, 1902.

DEATHS: Lucius Septimus Severus, Roman Emperor 193-211, York, 211; Antonio Pollaiuolo, sculptor, Rome, 1498; John Rogers, Protestant martyr, burnt at the stake, London, 1555; Giovanni Battista Della Porta, philosopher, Naples, 1615; Karen Carpenter, singer, Los Angeles, 1983; Liberace, pianist, Palm Springs, 1987.

The Yalta conference of Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin opened, 1945.

Ceylon, later known as Sri Lanka, became an independent state, 1948.

The Sunday Times issued the first colour supplement in Britain, 1962.

TOMORROW: BIRTHS: Mme de Sévigné, writer, Paris, 1629; John Lingard, Roman Catholic historian, Winchester, 1771; Sir Robert Peel, Prime Minister 1834-35 and 1841-46, Bury, Lancashire, 1788; Dwight Moody, evangelist, East Northfield, Massachusetts, 1837; John Boyd Dunlop, pioneer of the pneumatic tyre, Dreghorn, Strathclyde, 1840; "Patsy" Hendren, England and Middlesex cricketer, Chiswick, 1889; Adlai Stevenson, American statesman, Los Angeles, 1900.

DEATHS: Joost van den Vondel, poet and dramatist, Amsterdam, 1679; Philipp Jakob Spener, theologian, founder of Pietism, Berlin, 1705; Thomas Carlyle, writer and historian, London, 1881; A.B. (Banjo) Paterson, Australian folk poet and author of *Waltzing Matilda*, 1941; George Arliss, actor, London, 1946; Emeric Pressburger, film producer, Suffolk, 1988.

Rossini's opera *The Barber of Seville* was first performed in Rome, 1816.

The RAF College at Cranwell, Lincolnshire, was founded, 1920.

Laker Airways collapsed with debts of £270-million, 1982.

Memorial Service

Rear-Admiral Sir David Allen

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were represented by Air Vice-Marshal Peter Harding at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Rear-Admiral Sir David Allen held yesterday at St Mary's, Shapwick, Bridgwater.

The Duke of York was represented by Captain Neil Blair, RN. Admiral Sir Benjamin Bathurst, First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff, and Rear-Admiral John Burgess read the lessons.

Lieutenant-Commander Richard Allen, son, read from the works of Canon Henry Scott Holland and Lieutenant Stephen Allen, son, read from the life and work of Ralph Comba Jackson.

Admiral Sir Brian Brown gave an address.

Luncheon

HM Government

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, Minister with reponsibility for Transport at the Scottish Office, was the host yesterday at a luncheon held at Bute House, Edinburgh, for Scottish Roads and Transport Correspondents.

Service dinner

HAC Mess Club

The Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs were the guests at a dinner of the Honourable Artillery Company Mess Club held last night at Armoury House.

Mr John Challis, president, was in the chair. The Lord Mayor, Mr Michael Duncan, Major Basil Bicknell and the American Ambassador also spoke.

Dinner

HM Government

Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, QC, Minister of State at the Scottish Office, was host last night at a dinner held at Bute House, Edinburgh, for Scottish Health Correspondents.

A photograph of a pair of avocets mating achieved "split second accuracy and composition", according to the judges in the Kodak/*Birdwatch* Bird Photographer of the Year competition. The moment was captured by Steve Knell, the overall winner

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, as Honorary President of the Scottish Motor Neurone Disease Association, will visit their Edinburgh branch at City Chambers, High Street, at 10.40.

As Patron of the Scottish Rugby Union, the Princess Royal will attend the Scotland v Ireland international rugby match at Murrayfield at 12.45.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Paul Plumley, Welfare Adviser to SSAFA, London: to be Rector, Hever, Four Elms and Mark Beech (Rochester).

The Rev Robert Sellers, Curate, Wotton St Mary (Gloucester): to be Team Vicar, Redruth (Truro).

The Rev Brian Statham, Society of St Francis: : to be Team Vicar, Horsham, and Chaplain, Horsham Hospital (Chichester).

The Rev Stanley Swift, Rector, St Laurence, Upminster: to be Vicar, Romford, St Augustine, Rush Green (Chelmsford).

The Rev Andrew Thomas, Vicar, St Paul, Howell Hill, Cheam (Guildford): to be Team Rector, Beccles (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich).

The Rev David Waller, Curate, Aldwick: now *also* Chaplain, Bognor Regis Hospital.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr C.J.W. Awdry and Miss C.J. Alexander

The engagement is announced between Charles, elder son of Mr and Mrs Simon Awdry, of Bristol, and Jane, eldest daughter of the late Mr Edward Alexander and of Mrs Celia Evans, of Kenya.

Dr D.R. Cross and Miss L.C. Hone

The engagement is announced between David, elder son of Mr and Mrs George Cross, of Farnham, Surrey, and Lucy, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Joseph Hone, of Shutford, Oxfordshire.

Dr R.M. Eddison and Miss H.C. Ball

The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr and Mrs David Eddison, of Bethersden, Kent, and Helen, daughter of Mr David Ball, of Newport, Gwent, and Mrs Lynne Roach, of Cesme, Turkey.

Mr M.C.P. Gillies and Miss J.B. Evans

The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr P.G. Gillies, of Milton, Wiltshire, and Dr R.M. Gillies, of Bath, Avon, and Justine, daughter of Mr and Mrs D.A. Evans, of Plymouth, Devon.

Mr R.F. Roach and Miss A.C.M. Wilson

The engagement is announced between Robert, son of the late Mr Paul Roach and of Mrs Roy Collett, of Northamptonshire, and Anabel, daughter of Judge Harold Wilson and Mrs Peter Hasting, both of Oxfordshire.

Mr G. Sujo and Miss C. Berman

The engagement is announced between Glenn, son of Clara Diament Sujo and Abraam Sujo Volsky, and Carole, daughter of Lesley Berman and the late Leon Berman.

Mr S.E. Thornton and Ms J.C. Hall

The engagement is announced between Simon Edward, son of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Thornton, of Hertford, and Jennifer Crary, daughter of Mr and Mrs Marshall R. Hall, of Saratoga, California.

Mr G.P. Lodge and Miss J. Hyams

The engagement is announced between Gary, only son of Mrs P. Lodge, of Walthamstow, London and Jill, daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles Hyams, of Barking, Essex. The marriage will take place on August 31, 1996, at Saint Margaret's Church, Barking, and the reception will be held in the grounds of the couples home in Chigwell, Essex.

Mr J.B.T. Trevelyan and Miss H. Bevan

The engagement is announced between Julian, elder son of Mr and Mrs Edward Trevelyan, of Dalton, Northumberland, and Helen, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Thomas Bevan, of Bellawongarah, NSW, Australia.

Dr M. Watts and Miss L.A.C. Cole

The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr John Watts and the late Mrs Watts, of Fishguard, Pembrokeshire, and Laura, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Cole, of Wimbledon, London.

Marriages

Mr A. Corcoran and Miss C. Brown

The marriage took place yesterday between Mr Alexander Corcoran and Miss Candida Brown at Chelsea Register Office followed by a reception at Claridges.

Mr S.A.L. Tross Youle and Mrs K.L. Howie

The marriage took place in Tokyo on Thursday, January 12, 1995, between Mr Simon Tross Youle and Mrs Karen Howie, née Slay. A service of blessing will be held in England in the summer.

State visits

The Amir of Kuwait will pay a state visit to the United Kingdom in May.

The President of Finland and Mme Ahtisaari will pay a state visit to the United Kingdom in October.

Church services tomorrow

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 11 Choral Euch, Rev Dr M Palmer; 4 Choral E.

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: College Green 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 BSC/QEH Confirmation, Missa brevis (Ives), Ave verum (Elgar), The Bishop; 3.30 Choral E, Responses (Smith), Jackson in G, For lo I raise up (Stanford), Canon A Redfern.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M, Rev J Gledhill; 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Bennett), I sat down under his shadow (Bairstow), Rev S Van Culin; 3.15 E, Responses (Shephard), First service (Morley), Richte mich Gott (Mendelssohn); 6.30 ES for Candlemas.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 10.30 S Euch, Jackson in G, Let all mortal flesh (Bairstow), Canon D Jenkins; 3 E, Almighty and everlasting God (Gibbons), Responses (Morley), Harwood in A flat, O thou the *central orb* (Wood).

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch, Rev J Jones; 11.15 S Euch, Ireland in C, God be in my head (Rutter), Canon D Knight; 6 Choral E, Responses (Morley).

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 10 Euch, Jackson in E, View me Lord (Lloyd), Jesu Dulcis Memoria (Shephard); 11.30 Choral M, Responses (Peter Morris), John Ireland in F, Where thou reignest (Schubert), Canon J Newcome; 3.30 Choral E, Responses (Morris), Walmisley in D minor, Thou God of Wisdom (Gibbons); 6.30 ES, Canon J Newcome.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Stanford in B flat, Responses (Byrd), Pray that Jerusalem may have (Stanford), Rt Rev C Luxmoore; 11 S Euch, Mass of Holy Trinity (Walsh), O sacrum convivium (Messiaen), The Treasurer; 3.30 E, Howells in G, Responses (Byrd), Hodie cum gaudio *(Bouzignac)*.

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8, 11.15 HC, Kyrie in F (Darke), Stanford in C & F, Canon R Coppin; 10 M, Boyce in C, Senex puerum portabat (Byrd), Canon D Hodgson; 3.30 E, Purcell in G minor, Almighty God which by leading of a star (Bull); 6.30 E.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Coll Reg (Howells), Teach me O Lord (Attwood), 3.45 E, Coll Reg (Howells), For lo I raise up (Stanford).

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 HC; 6.15 Choral E, Batten in C, Responses (Tallis), Behold now praise the Lord (Harris).

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Mass for four voices/O Lord make thy servant Elizabeth (Byrd), Jubilate in C (Boyce), The Treasurer; 3.30 E, Responses (Reading), New College Service (Howells), I was glad (Parry).

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 10.30 Euch, Mozart in C Spatzenmesse, Canon M Boyling; 3 Air Training Corps, Stanford in B flat, Rev H Chantry; 4 HC.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8, 12.15 H Euch, Rev Boon Hor Khoo; 9 Euch, The Dean; 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis in B flat/Jubilate Deo (Mozart), 3.30 Choral E, Murrill in E, Praise our Lord all ye gentiles (Byrd); 6.30 E, Rev J R Harris.

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Missa Assumpta est Maria (Palestrina), Thee we adore, Mrs A Philip; 11.30 M, Responses (Shephard), Coll Reg (Howells), *View me Lord* (Lloyd), Canon D Durston; 3 E, Responses (Shephard), Darke in F, God is our hope and strength (Greene); 4.15 Baptism; 6 Taize.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; 11 Choral Euch, Surely thou hast tasted (Rose), O salutaris hostia (Elgar), Rev G Swinton; 3 E, Murrill in E, O pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Howells), The Provost.

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M; 10 S Euch, Alma Redemptoris (Palestrina), Missa Aeterna Christi Munera (Palestrina), O Lord increase our faith (Loosemore); 6 E, Responses (Radcliffe), Wood in D, I was glad (Parry).

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Missa/Eterna Christi munera (Palestrina), Rt Rev J Thompson; 11.30 M, Ireland in F, We wait for thy loving kindness O God (McKie); 3 E & Legal service, Gray in F minor, Exsultate Deo (Palestrina).

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: *8 HC; 10 M,* Responses (Gibbons & Barnard), Stanford in C, O Lord make thy servant Elizabeth (Byrd), Rev Dr A Harvey; 11.15 Euch, Missa O quam gloriosum (Victoria), The people will tell (Handel), Jesu dulcis memoria (Victoria), Rev C Semper; 3 E, Stanford in A, I was glad (Purcell), Sally Gross; 6.30 ES, Rev J Goodall.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9, 12, 5.30, 7 M; 10.30 SM, Asperges me (plainsong), Missa Euge bone/Omnes gentes plaudit manibus (Tye), Grands Jeux (Langlais); 10 *MP*; 3.30 V&B, Magnificat primi toni (Lassus), Te lucis ante terminum (Balfour Gardiner), Fantasia & Toccata in D minor (Stanford).

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10.30 M, Britten in C, My soul there is a country (Parry), Rev Canon V Strudwick; 11.30 Euch, Missa Assumpta est Maria (Palestrina); 3.30 E, St Pauls Service/Behold O God our defender (Howells).

YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Ave verum/Missa Brevis (Mozart), Canon *J* Toy; 11.30 M, Stanford in A, Responses (Rose); 4 E, Gloucester Service (Howells), I was glad (Parry), Canon D Lickess.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch, When to the temple Mary went (Eccard), missa Brevis (Berkeley), The Dean; 3.30 Choral E, Sumsion in G, Respoonses (Byrd), Sing we merrily (Campbell).

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8, 10, 6 LM; 11.30 SM, Rev A R Richins.

ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8, 10 MS & HC, Assumpta est Maria (Palestrina), Now shall the grace of our God be declared (Bach); 8 ES, Rev Dr J P Newell.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch; 10.15 M; 11 S Euch, Missa Christi (Leighton), I will tell you what wisdom is (Moore), Ven G Cassidy; 3.15 E, Rubbra in A flat, Responses (Gibbons & Barnard), O where shall wisdom be found (Boyce), Rev Canon C Fletcher.

ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8, 5.15 LM; 10.20 MP; 11 HM, Harmoniemesse (Haydn), Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace (Wesley), Rev D Hutt; 6 E&B, Stanford in G, The Lord is my shepherd (Berkeley), Rev P McGery.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 9 C; 11, Family, Rev R Bewes; 6.30 Rev S Wookey.

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11, Missa quinti toni (Lassus), Hodie beata virgo Maria (Arcadelt), *Senex puerum portabat* (Byrd).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC; 10 Children; 11 C, Rev P Elvy; 6 E, Rev P Elvy.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15, 6.30 Rev S Hood; 12.20 HC.

FARM STREET, W1: 7.30, 8.30, 10, 12.15, 4.15, 6.15 LM; 11 HM.

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 9 HC, Dr E Parry; 11, 5, 7.30 Informal Service.

THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, Mass in G (Schubert), Lauda Sion salvatorem (Victoria), 12.30, 4.30, 7 Mass; 3.30 V & B, Beati mundo corde (Byrd).

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 11 Confirmation, Rev P Hulme.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11, 6.30, Rev Dr R J Tudor.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC; 11 Choral Euch w/ Baptism; 6.30 Choral E, Rev Brooke Lunn.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Guild Service, St Bride's Setting, Mozart in B flat, Hear the voice and prayer (Tallis), 6.30 Choral E, Responses (Morley), Stanford in A, My soul there is a country (Parry), Canon J Oates.

ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Air Training Corps, Let the bright seraphim (Handel).

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11, Rev W Cairns; 6.30 Rev C MacLeod.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 11 SM, Missa Brevis (Britten), Dextera Domini (Goller).

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Ireland in C, God who as upon this day (Ramsey), The Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Garlickhythe, EC4: 10.30 S Euch, John Paul, Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Coll Reg (Howells), O Lord my God (Walton), Rev B Wilson; 6 Choral E, Purcell in G major, Thy word is a lantern (Purcell).

ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 8, 12.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, When to the temple Mary went (Eccard), Rev G Beacuhamp; 6.30 E, Call to remembrance O Lord (Farrant), Rev D Watson.

ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 9.45 Family C; 11 S Euch; Darke in E, When to the Temple Mary (Eccard), Rev J Humble.

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 S Euch & Baptism, Rev Dr D Gray.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8, 12.30 HC, Rev W Ratchford; 9.45 Euch, The Vicar; 11.30 Visitors, Rev B Schunemann; 2.45 Chinese, Rev G Lee; 5 Choral E; 6.30 ES, Rev J Pridmore.

ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, Kensington, W8: 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 Euch, Rev F Gelli; 11.15 Choral M, The Vicar; 6.30 Choral E, Rev F Gelli.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, *Primrose Hill:* 8 HC; 10.30 Parish Euch, Missa *Aeterna/Ego sum* panis vivus (Palestrina), Rev *S* Webster; 6 Choral E, Coll Reg (Howells), Hail Gladdening Light (Wood).

ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 9, 9.45 LM; 11 HM, Missa Brevis (Anerion), Fr S Young; 6 E&B.

ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, W1: 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Missa brevis (Kodaly), Geistliches Lied (Brahms), Rev P Wells; 6.30 Ministry of Healing, Rev D Evans.

ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 S Euch, Mass in A flat (Harwood), The Spirit of the Lord (Elgar), Ave Maria (Parsons), Rev H Ruschmeyer.

ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road, SW7: 8, 9 LM; 11 SM, Missa Petre ego pro te rogavi (Lobo), Cantate Domino (Pitoni), Laudate Dominum (Hassler), Canon C Colven.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC; 11 M, Responses/Short Service/O Lord make thy servant Elizabeth (Byrd), *Canon J Murphy*.

CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 S Euch, Jackson in G, Canon C Hill.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 11 Choral Euch, Lord God thou art our salvation (Mendelssohn), Five voices/Ave verum Corpus (Byrd); 3.30 E, Te lucis ante terminum (Tallis), Walmisley B flat, The earth is the Lord's (Stanford).

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street, W1: 8.15 HC; 11 S Euch, Missa Octavi Toni (Lassus), Cantate Domino (Hassler), Rev S Hobbs.

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 S Euch, Wood (Phrygian Mode).

ST GEORGE'S CHAPEL, Windsor Castle: 8.30 HC; 10.45 M, Responses (Rose), Te Deum in C (Stanford), Rev A Gyle; 11.45 S Euch, Laudate nomen/Missa Euge Bone (Tye); 5.15 E, Responses (Byrd), Cesar's Servioce (Amner), Ave Maria (Victoria).

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Responses (Reading), Gray in E, Ireland in C, Ascribe unto the Lord (Travers), Rev D Burton Evans.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 Choral HC, O taste and see (Vaughan Williams), Mass (Widor), Tantum ergo (Palestrina), Rev J Llewellyn.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: 11 S Euch, Jesu the very thought (Vittoria), Awake us Lord and hasten (Bach), Rev C French.

PERSONAL COLUMN

Then I remembered your mercy, Lord, what you did in days long past; you deliver those who put their trust in you and free them from the power of their enemies.
Ecclesiasticus 51 :8 (REB)

BIRTHS

BEIDOGLU - On January 30th, at The Portland Hospital, to Sarah (née Ruiz) and Veli, a boy, Hakan Ertugrul, a grandson for Yuksel.

BELLASIS - On February 1st, to Susan (née Marter) and John, a daughter, Francesca, a sister for Rowland and Hugh.

CORNES - On January 28th, to Katherine (née Montgomery) and Andrew, a daughter, Eleanor Christina Katya, a sister for Charlotte, Sophie and Alice.

DANIEL - On 2nd February, at Symondsbury House, to Charlotte (née Colfox) and James, a daughter, a sister for Olivia and Hettie

DICKSON - On January 30th, at The Portland Hospital, to Rosalind and John, a son, Michael John, a brother for James, Karen and Jeremy.

FIELD - On 31st January, to Julian and Clare (née Ensor) a beautiful daughter, Laura Victoria.

HOLLINGTON - On February 1st, at The Portland Hospital, to Dean and Lyn, a beautiful son, Jack Henry.

JENSEN - On February 2nd, to Caroline (née Macdonald) and Mike, a beautiful daughter, Tippi Elouise.

LEIGH - On 4th January 1995, at The Portland Hospital, to Angela (née French) and Simon, a son Michael Chaim David, a brother for Natan, Gabriella and Joseph.

McIVOR - On Saturday 21st January 1995, to Karen (née Embery) and Douglas, a son, Jack James Henry.

MONTGOMERY - On 11th January, to Jacqui (née Wright) and John, a daughter, Eleanor Kathryn, a sister for Ben.

NORTHROP - On January 31st, at The Portland Hospital, to Hilary and Anthony, a daughter, Electra, a sister for Augustus and Joshua.

SINGLETON - On 1st February 1995, to Alexandra and Tim, a daughter, Katherine Alicia Margaret, a sister for Izzy.

TODD - On 30th January, to Andie (née Alexander) and Mark, a son, Timothy Mark.

VAN DER LINDEN - On January 30th 1995, to Alison (née White) and Harald, a son, Sebastian

RUBY ANNIVERSARIES

LELLIOTT:SHAN-KWAN - On 5th February 1955 at St Andrew's Church, Kowloon, Hong Kong, Norman to Katherine. Celebration at Ferring, West Sussex.

DEATHS

AINSWORTH - Mary, of Great Bedwyn, Marlborough, Wiltshire, former Pupil and Teacher at St Paul's School, London and Teacher at the Royal School, Bath. Peacefully in her 90th Year. Funeral at Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Bedwyn. Details from Franklin & Son. Tel: (0672) 20496

BEZA - On 2nd February 1995, George, of 1, rue M.L. King, Fontenay-sous-Bois, France, former SOE and anti-communist political detainee in Romania, beloved husband of Vasilkia, father of Paul and Emilia, father-in-law of Miriam, grandfather of Anne-Marie, Emily, Dana, Bogdan, Madeleine and Estephe and great-grandfather of Lia. In his 87th year. Funeral Service (Romanian Orthodox) at Rosny-sous-Bois Cemetery, 7th February at 9.30a.m.

DODDS - Patrick Ray. Peacefully on 3rd February, dearly loved husband of Moyra and father of Penelope, Roy and Nick, and dear brother, grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral, Amersham Crematorium, Midday, Wednesday 8th February. Family flowers only, donations:- Leukaemia Research Fund, C/O Funeral Directors, Metcalfe, 284 High Street, Berkhamsted HP4 1AH. Tel 0144 2864548.

EDGEDALE - On Wednesday 1st February 1995, Mercy, at Trinity Hospice. Private cremation. Service of Thanksgiving will be held at St Luke's Church, Sydney Street, London SW3, on Wednesday 15th February 1995 at 12.o'clock midday. No flowers. Donations for African Causes. Enquiries to Ashton Funeral Services. 0171 274 5425.

ERULKAR - Solomon David, on January 19th at his home in Philadelphia. Emeritus Professor of Pharmacology and Researcher in Neuro-Physiology at the University of Penn Medical School. He spent his early years in England and leaves behind many friends in this country. His humour, his humanity, his dedication will not be forgotten. Enquiries, 071 435 0807.

GREENSMITH - On 1st February peacefully, Edward William, O.B.E., dearly loved husband of Peggy, father of John, Richard and Peter. Grateful thanks for the devoted care of the Staff of Rother House, Midhurst for the past year. Private cremation. Family flowers only. A Thanksgiving Service will be held at St Giles Church, Graffham, near Petworth, on 18th February, at 11.30am. Donations if desired to Rother House, may be sent to L.F. Unstott & Son, North Street, Midhurst, West Sussex, tele: 0730 813264

HOWELL - Alfred John, Wing Commander RAF, aged 90. Peacefully at Bewdley on Candlemas Day 1995, fortified by the rites of Holy Church, much loved by family and friends. Requiem Mass 2.pm Wednesday 8th February at The Catholic Church Bewdley. Private Burial. Family flowers only. Donation, if desired, to Bewdley Clinic. Enquiries 0299 402279.

INSOLL - Garth, peacefully passed away on 3rd February 1995, with his family around him. He will always be in our thoughts and hearts. Funeral to take place on Wednesday 8th February at 2.00 pm at St Michael and All Angels Church, Waterford, Herts.

JAMES - Linda (Rosalind Mary, née Scorer) On 1st February 1995, very peacefully at home in Oxted, aged 83. FIRST: widow of the late Dr Harold Meadows, died on active service in the RAF, on 11th November 1941. SECOND: very loved wife of Dr Norman James for 44 years. A wonderful mother to Sheila, Toby, Alison, Scilla, Julie, Roderick and Pip; grandmother to eighteen and great-grandmother. Cremation private, followed by thanksgiving *service on Friday, 10th* February at 12.30 p.m. at the United Reformed Church, Bluehouse Lane, Oxted. No flowers please. Donations to the NSPCC or Scripture Union c/o Ebbutts, High Street, Limpsfield, Surrey RH8 0DR

JONES - On 31st January 1995, Marjorie Lydia 'Peggy' (née Wright), at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London. Peacefully with great courage and much humour. S.O.E. Wartime Middle East. Dear Sister of Dennis and Peter, much loved aunt of Sandra, Stuart and Caroline. Funeral service at 2.00 p.m. on Friday 10th February 1995, at The Church of The Ascension, Burghclere, Berkshire. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Marie Curie Cancer Care c/o Howe & Son, Bear Hill, Kingsclere, Newbury, Berks RH15 8AQ.

KEELE - Mary Hermione (Molly) peacefully in hospital on 31st January, wife of the late Keith Stephen Keele, mother of Kennedy and Christopher, grandmother of Clara, Lucy, Stephanie and Andrew, beloved of us all. A Memorial Service will be held at East Ilsley in the near future

LOGAN - On February 2nd 1995, after a long illness bravely borne, Marjorie, beloved mother of Michael. Funeral on Tuesday 7th February at St Peter and St. Paul Church, Heytesbury at 11 am. Family flowers only. Donations to Heytesbury Church.

MAURER - Karl Werner Paul. After a lengthy illness, Karl Maurer died peacefully on January 31, 1995 at his home in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

OGDEN WHITE - Maggee. Suddenly in Dublin. Wife of the late *Ogden White of* Kiltinan Castle, Co. Tipperary and mother of Roberta Aubrey-Fletcher. Family funeral followed by Memorial Service in Fethard on Thursday 9th February at 12 noon.

RICQUISH - Peacefully on February 1st 1995, in Guy's Hospital, London, after a long illness. Elizabeth of Folkestone, Kent. Funeral Service at Hawkinge Crematorium nr Folkestone, on Monday February 13th at 2 pm. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to William Harvey Hospital, Cancer Daycare Centre, c/o Chittenden's Funeral Services, 1 Ingoldsby Road, Folkestone

ROE - Frederick Ormesher, dearest husband of Jean, died 20th January 1995. No letters please.

SANDERSON - Max, on February 2nd 1995, peacefully and with dignity at home, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire. Funeral Service at St Andrew's Church, Westlands, Newcastle on Wednesday February 8th at 1.45pm; followed by private cremation. No flowers by request please. Donations, if desired, for The W.E. Dunn Unit, of Cardiology, Keele University (Cheques made payable to Keele University). Enquiries Marsh & Son, Funeral Directors, Friarswood Road, Newcastle. Tel:01782 717019.

TREW - On January 27th 1995, peacefully at home, Dr D R (Violet) Corona Gwynne Trew of Camberley, Surrey, aged 92 yrs. Dearly loved sister, aunt, great aunt and friend. Funeral Service at the Chapel in Tekels Park at 12 noon on Friday, 10th February, followed by cremation at Aldershot Park Crematorium 1.30pm. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to "Friends of Tekels Park Estate" Tekels Park, Camberley, Surrey. GU15 2LE

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

ANTHONY - February 4th 1922 - December 16th 1990. Remembered with love every day, especially on your birthday. Jennifer.

ENRIGHT - Bernard S.J. of your charity pray for the soul of Bernard Enright S.J. A faithful Jesuit. Died 26th January 1994 aged 77. Requiem Mass February 4th 1994. Interred at Worcester. Jesus, Mary and Joseph have mercy. Lovingly remembered by Margaret and Sheila.

THE TIMES NOTICE TO READERS

Our new telephone number for Birth, Marriage and Death announcements is

0171 782 7272 or fax 0171 782 7827

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BE REPRESENTED AT the Olympics in Atlanta. Young British Olympic Dressage Rider, European team silver medallist 1993, seeks sponsorship for new horse with atlanta as realistic goal. full owners right £150,000; highest references. Box No 3507

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OBITUARIES

WILLIAM HEEPS

William Heeps, CBE, newspaper executive and chairman of Thomson Regional Newspapers, 1984-92, died after a heart operation on February 1 aged 65. He was born on December 4, 1929.

BILL HEEPS was one of a diminishing breed of newspapermen who started as copy boys and worked their way through the journalistic ranks to the top of their profession. As chairman and chief executive of Thomson Regional Newspapers, he steered that group through one of the most challenging periods in its history, when the combination of union power and the recession placed a question-mark over the very survival of some of its local newspapers. A tough, no-nonsense Scot, he was a formidable negotiator who held the management line when confronted by strike action and ensured that his newspapers always came out.

It was during his period in charge of Thomson Regional Newspapers that the transition to new technology was begun; he took the group into free newspapers; and he insisted on efficient, decentralised management. Throughout his time with TRN he seemed always to be given the toughest assignments but he handled them all with enthusiasm and cheerfulness. He was sharp and witty, always happier working with people rather than on paperwork.

William Heeps was born in Falkirk, the son of a miner. From his childhood he was always keen on sport, and showed promise as a footballer, playing for his local team as a fast, bustling centre forward. His first job was as a messenger on the *Falkirk Mail*. From

that he moved to becoming a reporter, first on that paper then, after National Service, on the *Linlithgow Journal and Gazette*, where he was promoted to chief reporter. A friend and colleague, Phil Mackie, later press adviser to the Prince and Princess of Wales, had applied to the *Daily Record* for a reporter's job and asked Heeps to come along in support. Heeps did so, and was given the job himself.

He became a sports sub-editor before joining Thomson Newspapers as a sports writer, then becoming sports editor on the old Edinburgh *Evening Despatch*, later amalgamated with the Edinburgh *Evening News*. A colleague recalls him as one of the best sports editors he ever worked with, taking charge of writing, sub-editing and laying out his pages. A workaholic, he nevertheless always found time for his beloved football as well.

He married Anne Robertson Paton in 1956, and the couple had two daughters. In 1962 he became assistant editor of the *Evening News*, then moved to Belfast as assistant to the managing director of the *Belfast Telegraph*. He also helped launch the *Burnley Evening News* and was responsible for amalgamating two local newspapers in Blackburn. In 1966 he became editor of the *Middlesbrough Evening Gazette* where he was resonsible for modernising and redesigning the paper, winning the coveted Allen Hutt award for the best-designed evening paper in Britain. He is remembered there as a determined go-getter, involved in everything locally, including a successful campaign to save the local racecourse. He maintained his interest in sport and in the early 1960s was an unpaid sports commentator for Scottish Television, where he is recalled for his phenomenal memory for sporting facts.

From Middlesbrough he moved to head the Celtic Press in Wales before returning to Teesside as managing director. It was there that he first confronted the print and journalist unions during one of the toughest periods of union power. He was unflinching in dealing with them but those who took him on recall that, however hard the bargaining, the day usually ended with a convivial drink in the bar. In 1974 his wife Anne died tragically of a brain tumour, and Bill Heeps became responsible for bringing up his daughters on his own. He moved south to take on the managing directorship of the *Evening Post* and the *Evening Echo* in Luton and Watford. Here he showed both his creative and managerial skills by introducing computer-setting and amalgamating the two papers in the teeth of opposition.

However hard the decisions, he would respond by grinning ruefully, shrugging his shoulders and carrying on. He was promoted to managing director of Thomson Magazines, then Thomson Data in 1980. In 1982 he became editorial director of TRN, and managing director in 1983.

That year he married his second wife Jennifer Bartlett and became stepfather to her daughter.

He was appointed chairman of TRN in 1984, combined with the post of chief executive from 1984 to 1990. He was an elder of the Church of Scotland, chairman of the Caledonian Schools in Hertfordshire and honorary vice-president of the Boys Brigade. President of the Newspaper Society, 1988-89, he was appointed CBE in 1990 for services to the newspaper industry.

He always retained his love of newspapers, taking a constant interest in the editorial side of the business, even when a new, more market-driven and bureaucratic regime decided that his robust hands-on management style was out of date. In later life he suffered from a crippling back injury, which made walking difficult. For a man so energetic and dedicated to sporting activity this was a terrible handicap. But he was never less than cheerful, and it is for his resolute optimism in the face of hardship that he will be remembered.

He is survived by his wife Jennifer, his daughters and step-daughter.

SIR CENNYDD TRAHERNE

Sir Cennydd Traherne, KG, TD, former Lord Lieutenant of Glamorgan, died on January 26 aged 84. He was born on December 14, 1910.

A PROUD champion of the interests of the Principality, Cennydd Traherne's name was almost synoymous with that of Wales. He lent his energies and support to a vast array of Welsh institutions and epitomised the doctrine of *noblesse oblige* in a part of the country where such exponents have tended not to be thick on the ground.

In a sense, his role in life could be said to have come about by accident. His mother, a redoubtable Scot, had firmly resolved to name her elder son Kenneth after an ancient Scottish king. But the Welsh-speaking priest in her village church outside Cardiff instinctively wrote down "Cennydd" — the Welsh variant. The misunderstanding was to prove his greatest asset.

The infant Cennydd was later to become the senior Garter Knight and to forge close personal links with the Royal Family. But, despite his privileged background and lifestyle, his name symbolised his empathy with Wales and its culture.

Cennydd George Traherne's father had been an officer in the Royal Navy who, having just retired, was recalled by the Admiralty upon the outbreak of the First World War. Posted as a gunnery instructor to Whale Island, he promptly caught pneumonia and died, leaving "Cenn" (then aged four) to be brought up by his mother.

He was educated at Wellington College and at Brasenose College, Oxford. A competent rather than an academic student, he was subsequently called to the Bar by the Inner Temple and before the outbreak of the Second World War practised for a time in London.

He also joined the Territorial Army and was called up in 1939, serving with the 81st Field Regiment Royal Artillery (TA) until 1943. By then Traherne had convinced himself that his maths could not cope with modern gunnery. Not only did his battery have difficulty in hitting the right target but he once led it (guns and all) up an all-too-narrow lane where it got stuck and had to be reversed — "a nightmare," as he later recalled.

He prudently transferred to the Royal Military Police, crossing the Channel on the day after D-Day with 102 Provost Company. He was mentioned in dispatches in France before being appointed Deputy Assistant Provost Marshal with the British 2nd Army in 1945.

He returned after the war to Coedarhydyglyn ("the wood along the valley"), the fine Georgian mansion built by his grandfather outside Cardiff. The judicious purchase of the neighbouring Dyffryn estate when land was cheap in the 1930s had increased the size of the family's holding to 3,000 acres.

At Coedarhydyglyn he settled down with his wife Rowena (who had been a delivery pilot in the war, flying Spitfires and Hurricanes from factory to RAF stations) to farm their pedigree herd of Guernsey cattle. They later switched to Welsh Blacks.

Traherne was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Glamorgan in 1952 and played host to the Queen at the 1958 Empire Games in Cardiff — where she announced that Prince Charles was to become the

Prince of Wales. He also said goodbye to the Pope when he flew from Cardiff airport at the end of his British tour in 1982. Traherne remained Lord Lieutenant of South, West and Mid-Glamorgan when the county was divided 21 years ago, retiring after 32 years in 1985. He was knighted in 1964 and created a Knight of the Garter in 1970.

Cennydd Traherne first learnt some Welsh to make a speech at the National Eisteddfod and he and his wife made strenuous efforts to speak it fluently. Their success was never conspicuous but Welsh-speaking Wales gave them full marks for trying.

He remained in the TA for a time after the war, receiving the Territoral Decoration in 1950, and was made honorary colonel of several regiments. He also became president and chairman of a large number of organisations including the Representative Body of the Church in Wales and the Glamorgan Hunt. He was a brave rider and pictures of horses adorned his home.

Rowena Traherne died nine years ago while they were on holiday in Australia, since when Cennydd Traherne continued to be looked after by Mrs Olive Evans, the almost legendary housekeeper at Coedarhydyglyn for 70 years until her retirement two months ago. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh both knew her as simply "Olive".

Cennydd Traherne, an unassuming man with great charm, represented the Queen at the memorial service for Lord Shackleton on the day before his death. He died asleep in his armchair after writing a letter of thanks to the Queen's private secretary for arranging a car. He and his wife had no children.

FRANCOIS BOUTIN

François Boutin, racehorse trainer, died of cancer in Paris on February 1 aged 58. He was born on January 21, 1937.

FRANCOIS BOUTIN was a vigorous competitor for the biggest prizes of the English Turf whose successes in this country included the Oaks, the 1,000 Guineas and the 2,000 Guineas. He relished raiding across the Channel from his Lamorlaye stable in which his string numbered nearly 200 horses until illness recently forced him to cut down.

It is a tribute to his highly competitive spirit that he continued to raid over here, despite some unpleasant brushes with the authorities.

In 1976 Trepan was his winner of the Prince of Wales' Stakes at Royal Ascot and, the following month, the Eclipse Stakes at Sandown. Dope tests, however, proved positive. Even though this was because a diuretic had been administered in error by an employee, Boutin was fined a total of £1,250 by the Jockey Club, the employee £100 and Trepan was disqualified from both events.

The only consolation was that the Jockey Club seem to have regarded Boutin's offences as technicalities: otherwise they might well have declared him a disqualified person and asked the French authorities to withdraw his licence.

Four years later there occurred an even more controversial decision. Nureyev, owned by one of Boutin's chief patrons, the Greek shipping magnate Stavros Niarchos, was first past the post in the 2,000 Guineas. But in achieving this, the jockey Philippe Paquet had barged his way through from the rear and hampered the chance of Pat Eddery's mount, Posse, who finished a neck and three-quarters of a length behind Nureyev and Known Fact. There is no question that Paquet had offended the rules, but the subsequent disqualification of Nureyev, instead of demotion to a minor placing, was judged harshly unfair by English as well as French racegoers, to say nothing of his trainer.

François Boutin was born at Beaunay in Normandy, the son of a farmer. In 1961 he became assistant at Chantilly to the great trainer Etienne Pollet, for whom he retained a lifelong admiration and acknowledgement as his mentor. In turn, Pollet once confided: "François is the only person to whom I ever taught my métier."

In 1964 Boutin took out a licence on his own account for a small string of only a dozen horses. But his previous master had passed on not only training skills but also how to judge thoroughbred bargains. Two of Boutin's early purchases were La Lagune and Flossy: together they cost only 430,000 francs.

Flossy won the Champion Stakes at Newmarket in 1969 (worth £25,112) while, the previous season, La Lagune had triumphed easily in the Oaks (prize-money £28,773). Yet she might never have reached Epsom but for Boutin's persistence and luck.

He once recalled: "It was the year of the riots and everybody was on strike. There was no petrol, no transport and virtually nothing worked but somehow we made it to Le Touquet and across the Channel to Lydd. What an expedition!" No wonder that La Lagune's victory, remained etched for ever in his memory as the most pleasurable he achieved in all his prodigious career.

Other English classic wins came with Miesque in the 1,000 Guineas of 1987; while in 1974 he had been successful in the 2,000 Guineas with Nonoalco and again in the same race in 1982 with Zino, owned by the financier Gerald Oldham.

Moreover, it was with this English owner's chocolate and white hooped colours that Boutin made his most significant mark on the English turf. No horse had ever won the Ascot Gold Cup three years in a row before Sagaro achieved the feat between 1975 and 1977. Other Royal Ascot victories were with Scorpio in the 1980 Hardwicke Stakes and with Kingmambo in the 1993 St James's Palace Stakes: and while awaiting the outcome of a steward's inquiry into the latter race, Boutin made it clear that he had not forgotten his experience with Nureyev 13 years earlier but, happily, he had no cause for resentment in this case.

His raiding was not confined to this country: in America he had a Washington International to his credit with April Run, then Miesque took the Breeders Cup Mile in two consecutive seasons, 1987 and 1988, while most dazzling of all was the performance in the 1991 Breeders' Cup Juvenile of Arazi. In addition Malacate won the 1976 Irish Derby, while the Derby Italiano fell to Boutin's colts three seasons running between 1978 and 1980.

In his own country Boutin naturally excelled with a huge total of important races won, including 17 French classics with such performers as Caracolero, Northern Trick, River Lady, Miesque, Hector Protector, Kingmambo, Hernando, Madeleine's Dream and, only last season, East of the Moon who captured the French equivalent of the 1,000 Guineas and Oaks and Hernando only just failed to achieve the trainer's long held ambition to win the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe.

During the previous year, in which three of the French classics, including their 2,000 Guineas for a sixth time, had fallen to him, Boutin had been undergoing chemotherapy and appeared to be recovering from cancer. Sadly it was not to be.

François Boutin is survived by his second wife, Lucy, and a son and two daughters from his first marriage. His first wife, Françoise, died in 1973.

PERSONAL COLUMN

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE CHANCERY DIVISION COMPANIES COURT

IN THE MATTER OF GAMES WORKSHOP GROUP PLC AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 25th January 1995 confirming the cancellation of the Share Premium Account of the above-named company in the sum of £6,977,648.10 was registered by the Registrar of Companies on 25th January 1995.

Dated this 4 day of February 1995

Booth & Co of Sovereign House, South Parade, Leeds LS1 1HQ Solicitors for the above-named company.

THE CHURCH IN WALES PLACES OF WORSHIP SITE ACT 1873 AND REVERTER OF SITES ACT 1987

The former St Theodore's Church, Brynceithin in the County of Mid Glamorgan

Whereas

(1) By a Conveyance dated the 8th May 1896 and made between the Right Honourable Windham Thomas Earl of Dunraven (1) and the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England (2) a piece or parcel of land containing 1420 square yards or thereabouts situate at Bryncethin in the then County of Glamorgan (now the County of Mid Glamorgan) and now being the site of the former Church of St Theodore's was granted to the said the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England under the authority of the Places of Worship Sites Act 1873 as amended by the Places of Worship Sites Amendment Act 1882.

(2) The said former Church ceased to be used as a place of worship on the 31st December 1992.

(3) The said former Church has ceased for a year to be used for the purpose of a place of worship and under the combined effect of section 1 of the Places of Worship Sites Act 1873 and section 1 of the Reverter of Sites Act 1987 the said land has reverted and become vested in the Representative Body of the Church in Wales on trust to sell the same.

Now take notice

1. The Representative Body of the Church in Wales intends to make an application to the Charity Commissioners for the establishment of a scheme which extinguishes the rights of beneficiaries under the trust and which requires the Representative Body of the Church in Wales to hold the said property in trust for such charitable purposes as may be specified in the Order.

2. Every beneficiary who wishes to oppose the extinguishment of his rights should notify his claim in writing to the Secretary of the Representative Body of the Church in Wales at 39 Cathedral Road in the City of Cardiff CF1 9XF not later than the 12th May. 1995.

G.T. Jones, Solicitor, The Representative Body of the Church in Wales.
30 Cathedral Road
Cardiff, CF1 9XF

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986 SHOWCHARM LIMITED T/AS THE HOUSE OF FRAGRANCE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Peter John Bridger MIPA of Messrs Bridgers, 54 London Street, Reading, RG1 4SQ was appointed Liquidator of the above Company at Meetings of the Contributories and Creditors held on the 24 January 1995.

Peter John Bridger MIPA. Liquidator.

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE MATTER OF UNIFORM SECURITIES LIMITED AND THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

NOTICE IF HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company convened under the provisions of 5.98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, and held on 24 January 1995; I, Melvyn Julian Carter, of Carter Backer Winter, Hill House, Highgate Hill, London, N19 5UU was duly appointed Liquidator of the company.

M J Carter
Liquidator
Dated this twenty seventh day of January 1995

NOTICE IN RELATION TO MISS FRANCES ROBSON DECEASED

"Robson - Frances Robson, spinster late of Harrogate, North Yorkshire died ther on 18th July 1994 (Estate about £56000). The kin of the above named are requested to apply to Messrs Cranswick Watson, Solicitors, 7 Greek Street, Leeds, LS1 5RR (Ref: WLE)"

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified: after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

BLOOMFIELD, OLIVER of 23 Craig Avenue, Reading, Berkshire, died on 26th December, 1994. Particulars to SARGEANT & SHEPPARD Solicitors of 150 Friar Street, Reading, RG1 1HE. before 21st April. 1995

MULLER, AGNES of KENT LODGE, PITSHANGER LANE, EALING, LONDON W5 died on 21ST MAY 1994 particulars to NABARRO NATHANSON Solicitors of 50 STRATTON STREET, LONDON W1X 5FL (Ref: NDM) before 5th APRIL 1995

NIXON, LAURENCE JAMES of RIDGE FOLD, STATION ROAD, DURGATES, WADHURST, EAST SUSSEX TN5 6RT died on 19TH SEPTEMBER 1994 particulars to ROWE & MAW Solicitors of 20 BLACK FRIARS LANE, LONDON EC4V 6HD (Ref: C190/213/28970/0001) before 5th APRIL 1995

Wright, Marjorie, 3 Brockton Court, Field Lane, Appleton, Warrington, Cheshire died on 8th September 1994; particulars of any creditors to Messrs Robert Davies & Co, PO Box 1, 21 Bold Street, Warrington, Cheshire, Ref EJS before 5th April 1995

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COLONEL KENNETH OSBORNE

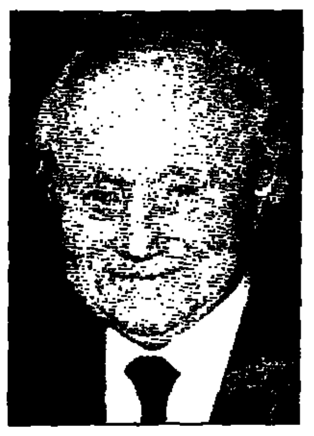
Colonel Kenneth Osborne, DSO, OBE, MC, TD, engineer and businessman, died on January 21 aged 80. He was born on November 26, 1914.

THE son of a prosperous Newcastle builder, Kenneth Osborne was training as a quantity surveyor at the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939. As a Territorial officer with his local regiment, he was at once mobilised and transferred to the Royal Engineers. After the British evacuation from Dunkirk he was awarded the Military Cross and was then posted to the Middle East. In 1943 he took part in the invasion of Italy, where he later won the DSO.

After the war, as one of the youngest full colonels in the Army, he was given the responsibility for the construction of two emergency bridges across the Rhine. By 1945 the river had been totally blocked by the wreckage of all the principal rail and road bridges, preventing access across the river and closing the waterway itself. The erection of the two bridges, at Wesel and Cologne, represented one of the greatest contributions to the rescue of the economies of war-torn Western Europe.

The bridges, designed by Major Ralph Freeman, were built in a race against time with Osborne eventually directing 10,000 men working seven-days-a-week, 24-hours-a-day. The engineering complexities and the problems of soothing relationships between the Army and civilians were handled with consummate efficiency by the young Osborne, who was appointed OBE for his efforts.

In spite of the worst floods for 25 years the Wesel bridge was opened on schedule in February 1946 and the Cologne bridge some four months later. They were intended to last five years, but the Montgomery bridge in



Wesel remained in service until the late 1950s and the Patton bridge in Cologne was not replaced until the 1960s.

Following this remarkable logistical achievement, Osborne returned to civilian life, initially with the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, where he described himself as being the *de facto* "town clerk of Abadan". He returned to the UK following nationalisation of the British oil interests there and then had a formidable career in the construction industry, first with Costain and then as the managing director of Scottish Land Development. This company was acquired by the Hanson Group in 1967, which opened up new opportunities for Osborne's career. He joined the board of Hanson and, until his retirement in 1979, played a major role in successfully expanding and developing the company. With his creative and innovative approach, he exercised a great influence on the early progress of Hanson.

Osborne's warm and friendly personality coupled with his wide spread of interests made him many friends. In his later years he devoted his time to charitable works, mainly associated with medical causes.

He leaves a widow, Rivka, whom he married in 1983. He is also survived by two daughters from his marriage to his first wife, Sheppey, who died in 1981.

ON THIS DAY

February 4 1901

Queen Victoria (1891-1901) died on January 22. In sombre prose The Times correspondents described the stages of the long journey from Osborne to the mausoleum at Frogmore, Windsor.

FUNERAL OF THE QUEEN DEPARTURE FROM OSBORNE

It is my mournful duty today to attempt to describe the first two scenes in the first act of the solemn drama, which will be closed at Windsor tomorrow. No pen, even of one writing at leisure, could do anything approaching to justice to the moving scenes which followed fast upon one another: and no person who, being present saw that wonderful procession at a single point will ever deem any description adequate. On many great occasions has it been my privilege to be a spectator of a high ceremonial of State, in which her late Majesty played a prominent part. I saw her drive through London on that memorable day in 1887, with the heroic figure of the German Emperor's father by her side.

Repeatedly in 1897, and in the central ceremonial of the Jubilee particularly, it was my duty to do all that in my lay to record the impression produced by the Queen, surrounded by the pomp of State, and wrapped up in the warm love of her people. Less than a year ago in Ireland I watched her move in triumph through avenues of soldiery, with a forest of welcoming populace behind, as she began that memorable visit which in the opinion of many of those who were closely associated with her, placed too severe a strain upon her constitution. But on none of those occasions has the task of writing appeared so awe-inspiring as it does on this midsummer day transplanted into winter, upon which the son of that heroic figure of 1887 has walked from Osborne to Cowes side by side with the King behind the coffin which held all that was mortal of the Queen who reigned for more than three-score years. With the sound of the wailing pipes, the dirge of the brazen instruments, the roll of the muffled drums, the roar of the cannon from the Fleet, and the thud of more distant guns ringing in his ears, a man who should hope to write in a manner worthy of so majestic a theme must be, indeed, possessed of extraordinary assurance. Not to have written quite unworthily would be more than sufficient.

On this great day some things were done, as was right and proper, out of sight of the eyes of those who represented the public; others were accomplished in their full view. It was inside the veiled windows of Osborne House for example, that the coffin was moved from its temporary resting-place in the chapel into the long corridor, that a brief service was conducted by the Bishop of Winchester, that the bluejackets, with the Highlanders holding the pall, bore it to the entrance. But outside there was enough and to spare to be seen.

My privileged place was on the lawn immediately facing the Queen's entrance. It was a day which might well be described as out of Paradise. The sky was cloudless and blue; the Solent looked like the Mediterranean itself; the gentle south-westerly air hardly stirred the folds of the Royal Standard which hung at half-mast over the topmost turret of the House. Moving about the almost solitary grounds one happened upon all sorts of little matters recalling the fact that the Queen was deeply attached to the island home in which she died and regarded it as her true home.

NEWS

Major toughens single currency line

■ Britain is to set new conditions for joining a European single currency beyond those in the Maastricht treaty, John Major announced. At the same time the Prime Minister made plain that he is to resist the demands of the Euro-sceptics that he close off the option of joining a single currency at some time in the future, possibly as early as 1999 .... Pages 1, 16

Peers accused of 'cash for questions'

■ The House of Lords was embroiled in the cash-for-questions controversy last night after a senior peer accused colleagues of taking "substantial sums" as payment for putting questions to ministers. Four peers were said to have failed to declare cash payments and other benefits .... Page 1

Protestors held

More than 40 people were arrested, including the father and sister of the animal rights protestor who died earlier this week, as the airlift resumed........ Pages 1, 5

Rugby record

Touts were demanding a record £700 a pair for tickets for England v France.......... Pages 1, 40

Terrorists freed

The Irish Prime Minister urged Britain to release its share of terrorist prisoners after Dublin freed five IRA inmates .... Page 2

Snow trap

Two women were spending a second night on Ben Nevis after a rescue operation was called off because of the bad weather Page 3

Bill for pilots

Two hundred former Dan-Air pilots will have to pay another £75,000 in legal fees before they learn how much compensation they are entitled to receive Page 6

Police to sue

Twenty-three police officers are to sue their force in connection with stress caused by the Hillsborough disaster .... Page 9

Victory for Howard

Michael Howard won a test case reversing a decision that could have freed hundreds of people seeking asylum .... Page 10

Electoral saviour

French Socialists are due to anoint a presidential candidate whose main task will be to save them from electoral disaster..... Page 11

Trade war looms

America is to announce the toughest punitive trade sanctions to stop rampant Chinese piracy of music, films and software .... Page 13

Corruption crisis

Russia's Defence Minister came a step closer to dismissal after new allegations of top-rank military corruption .... Page 15

British astronaut boldly goes into orbit

■ The man who will become the first Briton to walk in space blasted off from Cape Canaveral, Florida, amid fears that a sudden leak in a steering thruster could threaten the space shuttle *Discovery*'s mission .... Page 1

MARTIN BEDDALL

Spike Milligan yesterday after being named Oldie of the Year. He was chosen for the award, from the *Oldie* magazine, after calling the Prince of Wales a "little grovelling bastard" at the British Comedy Awards

OPINION

Stress on the beat: Should police officers (and firemen, soldiers, nurses and ambulance workers) be entitled to make claims for damages for stress in the manner of ordinary citizens? .... Page 17

Selective argument: It would be sad if Oxford squandered its entry system for such ill-conceived reasons..... Page 17

They can't can't: The death of the can-can is as shocking news as if the French travelling to today's rugby international were to express appreciation of Twickenham's set menu of greasy onions in buns .... Page 17

LETTERS

Future of Northern Ireland; walking in the Lake District; attack on banks...Page 17

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: The Euro-fanatics have won a triumph. At the Royal Academy this week is an exhibition that must be viewed with suspicion .... Page 16

John Birt: We in broadcasting should beware of interviewers who feel more self-important that the subject-matter; who like the disorientating opening question — the rabbit punch — designed to knock off balance. The result is often a battle of wits going nowhere.. Page 16

THE PAPERS

The Chinese authorities need to see proof that real penalties follow persistent violations of international law

— *The Washington Post*

BUSINESS

Economy: demand for private credit soared in December as consumers flocked to buy household goods and "big ticket" items such as cars, vindicating Thursday's base-rate rise.......... Page 21

Etam: Shares in the fashion retailer dropped 18p to 183p as it said that operating profits for 1994 would be below the previous year...... Page 22

Markets: the FT-SE 100 Index rose 25.0 points to close at 3059.7. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 79.8 to 79.1 .... Page 24

OBITUARIES

William Heeps, newspaper executive; **François Boutin**, racehorse trainer; **Sir Cennydd Traherne**, former Lord Lieutenant .... Page 19

SPORT

Motor racing: Nigel Mansell has signed a contract, believed to be worth £7 million, with McLaren .... Page 35

Cricket: England dropped Michael Slater three times as Australia moved to 283 for four on the opening day of the fifth Test .... Page 40

Golf: Nick Faldo, back to form after two poor tournaments in Arizona, scored 66 in the first round of the Pebble Beach Pro-am, leaving him only one behind the leader .... Page 39

CAR 95

Land-speed challenge: the man who will try to smash the sound barrier . Pages 1, 3

Mission impossible: is Jaguar's XJ range resistant to thieves? .... Page 10

SATURDAY TIMES

Instant opera: Operavox offers you *Carmen* — in 30 minutes .... Page 3

High society: the BBC version of Edith Wharton's *The Buccaneers* .... Page 5

Screen dance: modern dance made for TV .... Page 6

WEEKEND

Violent nights: one man tells how he was mugged in the centre of Cambridge by five drunken yobs........ Pages 1, 3

Shopping: inspired ideas for Valentine's Day .... Page 13

Going underground: visiting a couple who live in a concrete water tank........ Page 17

Gardening: How new ideas from Germany could revolutionise the way we plant our borders: splashes of winter cheer; a journey through time: gardens to visit this weekend..... Pages 3, 10, 11

Travel: The hidden gems of Catalonia: magical Portmeirion; specialist breaks; skiing for women; and a cultural waltz down the green Danube. Page 22-27

WEEKEND ARTS

Thacker's Miller: the British director David Thacker explains his affinity with Arthur Miller, the American playwright, which bears fruit in his production of *A View From the Bridge*........ Page 5

"Victim art": the New York arts world is in uproar over a dance-work that includes a video of people dying of Aids-related disease .... Page 5

Roses all the way: as Covent Garden revives its production of *Der Rosenkavalier* tonight, virtually the same cast can be heard on a video of a production at the Vienna State Opera .... Page 6

New on CD: Richard Thompson is honoured by a tribute album that does not quite come off..... Page 7

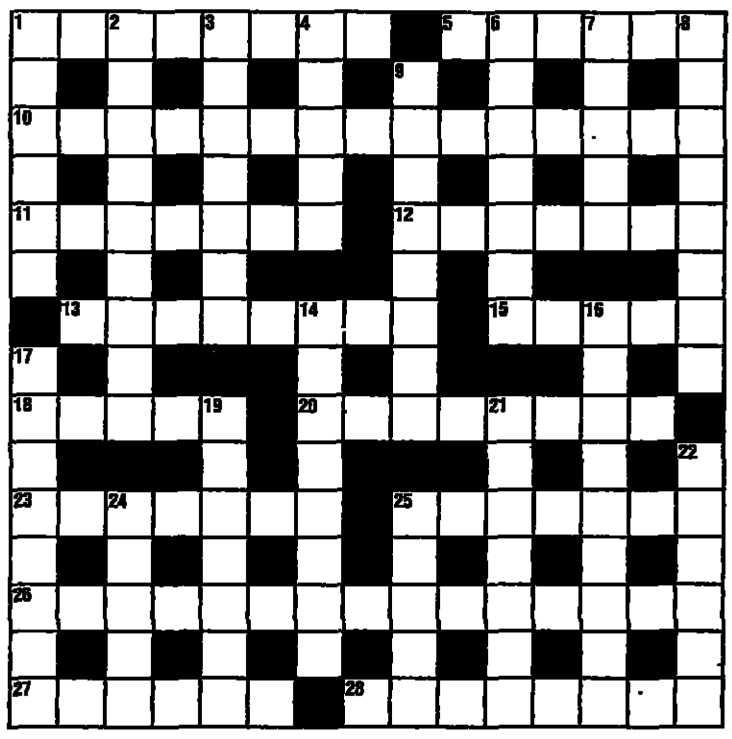
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,770

KNOCKANDO

A bottle of Knockando, a superb Speyside Single Malt Scotch whisky uniquely bottled only when at its peak of perfection rather than at a pre-determined age, together with a fine leather credit card wallet, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address ....

....



ACROSS

1 In France, an offer to study without being asked (8)
5 Student leaves African republic for a place in Europe (6)
10 One gossips finally of freedom, say, and the gallows (15)
11 Some find the Kirk so mean (7)
12 Cretans danced in states of ecstasy (7)
13 It's familiar to male cyclists and peevish lawyers (8)
15 Put off, but dined again on the way back (5)
18 It sounds when detectives retire (5)
20 Girl played cricket half-heartedly but just as vigorously (8)
23 Container holding 60% of the drink in the ship's kitchen (7)
25 A beautiful girl, but so destructive! (7)
26 Where hill-dwellers may go for a match? Absolutely (4,2,3,6)
27 It's bound to arise (6)
28 Rip 'em out before the first performance (8)

DOWN

1 Biased female abandons terrible ruffian (6)
2 Like a bay, perhaps, with a limited view (9)
3 Awkward American promises to pay? That's suspicious (7)
4 Jane accepted one in a lofty retreat (5)
6 One robbing a French prime minister around midnight (7)
7 Accountant leaves girl an old musical instrument (5)
8 Attempt first sitar composition, displaying creative ability (8)
9 Winner leads off Indian Army in a carriage (8)
14 She may have a shock — it isn't fair! (8)
16 Game played for nothing in the pub (4,5)
17 A conspirator in Rome stands up but falls (8)
19 Prisoner about to scatter bread in the soup (7)
21 Lightweight stories, primarily, in which characters change places? (7)
22 Support the game (6)
24 Possibly a violinist's shady retreat? (5)
25 Change course, being unqualified (5)

Solution to Puzzle No 19,764

```
LIPSTICK PILFER
O E U O   S O E
WARDRESS FLORIN
B U N M M E G E
OASIS ONASTRING
Y E T P L   V A
   GOTOONESHEAD
D S N L U T N E
INTHEPICTURE
S A   T R A H F
PAKISTANI THEIR
A E U N T A R U
TROWEL SINGSONG
C U D   O E I A
HATRED INIMICAL
```

Solution to Puzzle No 19,769

```
WALLFLOWER ACES
I I R P X   H T
STEREOTYPE JAVA
H S E I E Q R B
 FLAT MARSUPIAL
B O H I T A O E
ROWDIEST PROTEM
A   N E P T   A
STALKY RELEVANT
S W I H R R C E
TAKINGOFF SETH
A W G N O T A M
CHAT JOURNALESE
K R   U C F O S
SODA GREENFINCH
```

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: N Twickel, London; D M Macarthur, Bristol; C Berman, London; J Elliott, Bonnyrigg, Midlothian; D L Kavanagh, Newmarket, Suffolk.

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TIMES WEATHERCALL

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Region	Code
Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Gloucs,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises: 7.35 am — Sun sets: 4.55 pm

Moon sets 10.45 pm — Moon rises 9.06 am

First quarter February 7

London 4.55 pm to 7.33 am
Bristol 5.05 pm to 7.43 am
Edinburgh 4.52 pm to 8.01 am
Manchester 4.57 pm to 7.48 am
Penzance 5.20 pm to 7.51 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 7.33 am — Sun sets: 4.57 pm

Moon sets 11.50 pm — Moon rises 9.30 am

First quarter February 7

London 4.57 pm to 7.32 am
Bristol 5.06 pm to 7.41 am
Edinburgh 4.54 pm to 7.59 am
Manchester 4.59 pm to 7.46 am
Penzance 5.22 pm to 7.49 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	4:16	7.37	4:46	7.31
Aberdeen	4:00	4.15	4:03	4.36
Avonmouth	9:58	13.40	10:13	12.90
Belfast	1:43	3.30	1:58	3.64
Cardiff	9:49	11.97	10:01	11.39
Devonport	8:31	5.41	8:46	5.12
Dover	1.27	6.74	1:49	6.34
Dublin	2:12	3.92	2:24	4.18
Falmouth	8.10	5.07	8:29	4.64
Glasgow	3:19	4.60	3:40	4.64
Harwich	2:20	4.03	2:47	3.87
Holyhead	0:51	5.34	1:04	5.63
Hull	9:02	7.18	9:08	7.62
Ilfracombe	8:45	9.16	8:57	8.78
King's Lynn	8:59	6.31	9.15	6.46
Leith	5.22	5.31	5:34	5.39
Liverpool	1:44	9.07	2:00	9.25
Lowestoft	--	-	0:31	2.23
Margate	2:33	4.78	3:01	4.57
Milford Haven	8:59	6.89	9:16	6.53
Newquay	7:48	6.67	8:07	6.27
Oban	8:19	3.82	8:21	3.65
Penzance	7:21	5.47	7:39	5.15
Portland	9:24	2.07	9:40	1.80
Portsmouth	1.58	4.80	2:09	4.61
Shoreham	1:56	6.34	2:11	6.11
Southampton	1:16	4.55	1:28	4.46
Swansea	9:07	9.42	9:20	8.99
Tees	6:32	5.11	6:39	5.28
W'ton-on-Nze	2:14	4.18	2:44	4.01

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Thursday: Highest day temp: Guernsey, Channel Islands, 12C (54F); lowest day max: Lerwick, Shetland, 04C (39F); highest rainfall: Jersey, Channel Islands, 0.31in; highest sunshine: Folkestone, Kent, 7.7hr

FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will have a mainly dry, bright day with some sunshine, mainly in the north. Cloud will thicken from the southwest later in the afternoon and evening and outbreaks of drizzle, with fog on hills and the coast, will spread northeast across southwest England and Wales. Northern Ireland and southern Scotland will start cloudy but should have a mainly dry day. Northern Scotland will have a showery day, with most of the showers in the west and north and the best of the sunshine in the east. Everywhere will be very mild and winds will be lighter than recently.

☐ **London, SE England, Central S England, S Wales:** mainly dry but cloudy. Brighter in the afternoon. Wind southwest light. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **E Anglia, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, N Wales, NW England, Central N:** dry with some sunshine. Wind southwest light. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **Channel Isles, SW England:** cloudy with drizzle and coastal fog. Wind southwest light. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **Lake District, Isle of Man, NE England, Borders, SW Scotland, Northern Ireland:** rather cloudy. Occasional showers. Wind southwest light. Max 12c (54F).

☐ **Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth:** dry with some sunshine. Wind west moderate. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Glasgow, Central Highlands, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** rather cloudy and showery. Wind west fresh. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Outlook:** mild and mostly dry, although there will be a little rain in places.

AROUND BRITAIN

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

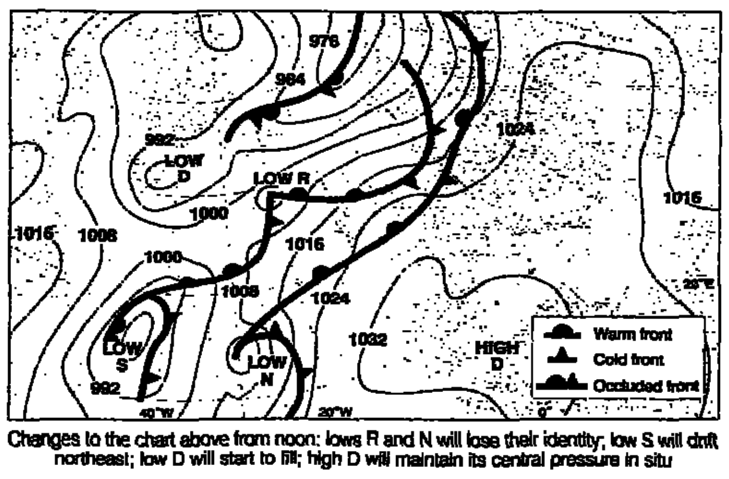
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	2.5	-	6	43	b
Anglesey	2.7	-	8	46	s
Aspatria	3.5	-	7	45	s
Aviemore	1.1	-	4	39	c
Belfast	0.2	-	8	46	b
Birmingham	5.6	-	8	46	s
Bognor R	6.3	0.01	8	46	s
Bournem'th	4.2	-	9	48	s
Bristol	4.4	0.01	9	48	s
Buxton	4.5	-	5	41	s
Cardiff	2.9	-	8	46	fg
Clacton	6.9	0.01	8	46	s
Colwyn Bay	3.5	-	9	48	s
Cromer	6.1	-	7	45	s
Doncaster	5.2	-	8	46	s
Dunbar	X				
Eastbourne	6.5	0.04	8	46	s
Edinburgh	3.5	0.11	7	45	c
Eskdalemuir	2.4	-	4	39	b
Exmouth	5.0	-	10	50	s
Falmouth	X	-	11	52	b
Fishguard	4.3	-	8	46	c
Folkestone	7.7	0.04	8	46	s
Glasgow	1.6	-	7	45	b
Guernsey	4.4	0.07	12	54	s
Hastings	7.3	0.02	8	46	s
Hayling I.	5.6	-	8	46	s
Herne Bay	7.4	-	9	48	s
Hove	4.8	-	9	48	b
Hunstanton	6.5	-	7	45	s
Isle of Man	2.3	-	9	48	c
Jersey	5.6	0.31	11	52	b
Kinloss	2.0	-	6	43	b
Leeds	4.4	-	8	46	s
Lerwick	1.2	0.02	4	39	b
Leuchars	2.8	-	6	43	b
Littlehmptn	6.2	-	9	48	s
Liverpool	5.3	-	8	46	s
London	6.6	-	9	48	s
Lowestoft	7.2	-	7	45	s
Manchester	4.9	-	7	45	s
Margate	-	0.04	7	45	s
Minehead	4.5	-	11	52	s
Morecambe	X				
Newcastle	2.5	-	7	45	s
Newquay	3.7	-	11	52	b
Norwich	7.3	-	8	46	s
Nottingham	6.0	-	8	46	s
Oxford	5.1	-	9	48	s
Penzance	4.3	-	11	52	s
Plymouth	4.2	-	11	52	s
Poole	3.0	-	9	48	s
Prestatyn	X	-	8	46	s
Ross-o-wye	3.9	-	8	46	s
Sandown	5.7	-	9	48	s
Saunton Snd	3.6	0.01	12	54	s
Scarboro'	5.2	-	6	43	s
Scilly Isles	0.9	0.06	10	50	b
Shrewsbury	4.5	-	8	46	s
Skegness	6.2	-	6	43	s
Southport	5.2	-	8	46	s
Southsea	6.0	-	8	46	s
Stornoway	0.3	-	7	45	r
Swanage	5.2	-	9	48	s
Teignmouth	4.4	-	10	50	s
Tenby	2.4	-	10	50	c
Tiree	0.1	-	7	45	r
Torquay	4.7	-	11	52	s
Tynemouth	2.0	-	6	43	c
Ventnor	5.7	-	9	48	s
Weymouth	4.7	-	10	50	s

These are Thursday's figures

ABROAD

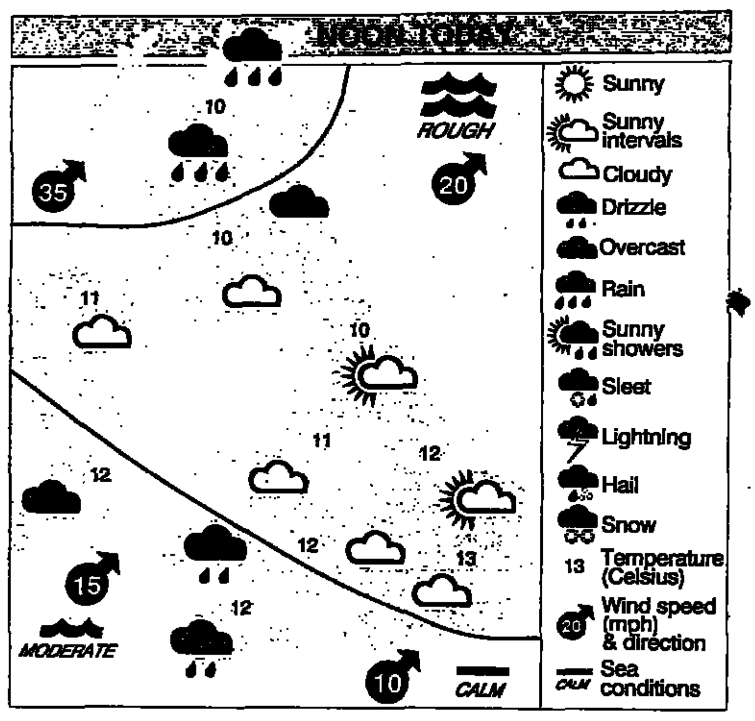
	C	F	
Ajaccio	14	57	s
Akrotiri	18	64	s
Alex'dria	18	64	f
Algiers	14	57	f
Amst'dm	7	45	c
Athens	15	59	s
Bahrain	23	73	s
Bangkok	29	84	s
Barbados	29	84	f
Barcelona	14	57	s
Beirut	16	61	s
Belgrade	4	39	c
Berlin	3	37	s
Bermuda	-	--	
Biarritz	13	55	s
Borde'x	13	55	s
Brussels	7	45	f
Budapst	6	43	s
B Aires	27	81	s
Cairo	20	68	s
Chicago	2	36	c
Ch'church	15	59	c
Cologne	4	39	s
C'phagn	2	36	f
Corfu	15	59	s
Dublin	10	50	f
Dubrovnik	14	57	s
Faro	18	64	s
Florence	14	57	s
Frankfurt	4	39	f
Funchal	18	64	f
Geneva	7	45	c
Gibraltar	16	61	c
Helsinki	0	32	s
Hong K	16	61	s
Innsbrck	5	41	s
Istanbul	8	46	s
Jeddah	30	86	s
Jo'burg	27	81	f
Karachi	28	82	f
L Palmas	23	73	f
Le Touqt	9	48	s
Lisbon	11	52	fg
Locarno	8	46	s
L Angels	22	72	s
Luxembg	3	37	s
Luxor	18	64	c
Madrid	10	50	s
Majorca	13	55	c
Malaga	17	63	s
Malta	16	61	s
Melb'rne	20	68	c
Mexico C	19	66	s
Miami	21	70	s
Milan	9	48	s
Montreal	-11	12	s
Moscow	1	34	sn
Munich	3	37	s
Nairobi	27	81	s
Naples	14	57	s
N Delhi	20	68	s
N York	5	41	s
Nice	14	57	s
Oslo	3	37	r
Paris	7	45	f
Peking	0	32	s
Perth	25	77	s
Prague	3	37	s
Reykjavik	3	37	c
Rhodes	15	59	s
Rio de J	29	84	f
Riyadh	28	82	s
Rome	13	55	s
Salzburg	4	39	c
S F'risco	15	59	s
Santiago	29	84	s
S Paulo	28	82	c
Seoul	3	37	s
Sing'por	26	79	r
St'kholm	-1	30	f
Strasb'rg	4	39	s
Sydney	33	91	s
Tangier	18	64	f
Tel Aviv	18	64	s
Tenerife	22	72	s
Tokyo	9	48	s
Toronto	-11	12	s
Tunis	16	61	f
Valencia	15	59	s
Vanc'ver	7	45	f
Venice	9	48	s
Vienna	4	39	f
Warsaw	1	34	s
Wash'ton	6	43	c
Wel'ngton	18	64	c
Zurich	5	41	c

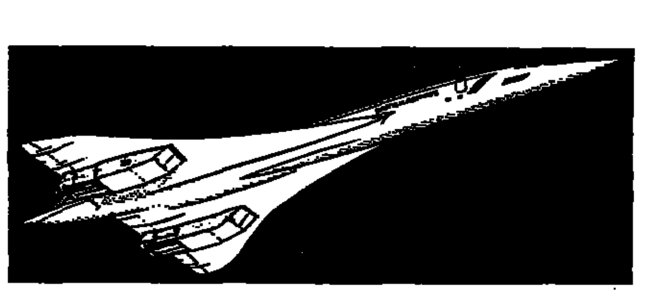
Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available



Changes to the chart above from noon: lows R and N will lose their identity; low S will drift northeast; low D will start to fill; high D will maintain its central pressure in situ

NOON TODAY





QE2 AND ORIENT-EXPRESS

Orient-Express from Victoria to Southampton on 3 May
● three night QE2 cruise to Lisbon via Gibraltar
● Concorde supersonic to Heathrow £1,499

Concorde to Lisbon on 6 May ● four night VE Day cruise on QE2 to Southampton via Plymouth and Guernsey
● Orient-Express to Victoria £1,699

Orient-Express from Victoria to Southampton on 16 July
● eight night Land of the Midnight Sun cruise on QE2 via North Cape to Stavanger with the Norwegian Fjords
● Concorde supersonic to Heathrow £2,499

Orient-Express from Victoria to Southampton on 26 July
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هكذا من الأصل

MELVYN MARCKUS 22

Our City Editor on the ghost of Robert Maxwell

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Partners in Power at KPMG

SPORT 35-40

England's linchpin prepares to do battle once more

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 4 1995

Widows unlikely to share Lloyds £10m

C&G Bill killed off by Labour MPs

By Robert Miller

LABOUR MPs yesterday "shouted down" a Private Member's Bill introduced to give thousands of widows a share in a £10 million bonus payout from the proposed takeover of the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society by Lloyds Bank.

The failure of the Bill, introduced by Douglas French, Conservative MP for Gloucester, also has implications for widows and divorcees involved in the much larger merger between the Halifax and Leeds Permanent building societies.

Mr French had hoped that his Building Societies (Joint Account Holders) Bill would pass its second reading yesterday and become law before the critical "vesting" date of August 1 when the C&G takeover is due to be completed.

Earlier this week, the C&G said Lloyds had agreed to add £10 million for widows, on top of the £1.8 billion for C&G members who did qualify for a share in the society's assets. C&G said last night: "We are very disappointed, but we can't do anything unless the law is changed."

Mr French had cross-party support for his Bill. A letter from Alistair Darling, Labour's City affairs spokesman, written on Thursday, said: "We've done all we can to ensure that your Bill goes through all its stages tomorrow. Our Whips know the position and we have spoken to all those who might object!"

Mr French said yesterday: "Around 10 Labour MPs shouted 'object' [effectively killing the Bill]."

But Mr Darling said: "There is still a lot of bitterness in the party over the way the Government wrecked the Disabled Persons Bill last year and this has spilled over into this session. Yesterday, two Conservative MPs talked out a Bill that would have prevented the export of live animals. In that atmosphere it is hardly surprising that Mr French's Bill did not get through.

"Mr French's Bill should never have been a Private Member's Bill in the first place. I will be writing to the Treasury saying that if the Government is prepared to take this Bill on its own time we will make sure that it goes through in half a day, or whatever else is necessary to put it on the statute book."

Realistically the chances of C&G widows, and possibly those with the Halifax and the Leeds, receiving a payout are rapidly diminishing. The Halifax said: "We are still looking for some way of alleviating this problem. It is now up to the Government."

The Treasury is expected to publish the results of its review of the Building Societies Act 1986 before the end of the month. Within the proposals it is understood that there are amendments to the present Act which are broadly in line with those in Mr French's Bill. But at present there is no Parliamentary time for the amendments to be pushed through in time for the C&G's vesting day.

The only hope for widows, divorcees and others who have been excluded under the terms of the Act from sharing in any bonus payouts arising from a merger, takeover or stock market flotation is if the Cabinet committee allocates Parliamentary time to it.

Next week both C&G will unveil its annual results. Rob Thomas, building societies analyst at UBS, the stockbroker, forecasts that pre-tax profits will rise to £250 million (£202 million). The bad debt provision will be down to £50 million (£76 million).

Mr Thomas added: "The C&G is in an interesting position over the Lloyds takeover. If the profits are significantly above the £250 million barrier some of the society's members might call for an upwards revaluation of the £1.8 billion Lloyds' bid."

ANDRÉ CAMARA

Changing Spillers' shape: Richard Clothier says the merger will give scope for cost cuts

Dalgety in $700m pet food deal

By Susan Gilchrist

DALGETY is set to become Europe's second largest pet food manufacturer after its $700 million takeover of Quaker's European pet food business.

The deal marks a change in direction for Dalgety, which has decided to pull out of consumer foods to concentrate on pet foods, food ingredients and its agribusiness. The company has put its Golden Wonder and Homepride food operations up for sale and hopes to raise at least £300 million from their disposal.

The Quaker deal, which has yet to be cleared by the European Commission, will be partly funded by a one-for-four rights issue at 335p a share, raising £186 million.

The balance will be funded by debt, lifting Dalgety's gearing to 200 per cent from 49 per cent. Richard Clothier, chief executive, said debts would be reduced by disposals.

Quaker, best known for its Felix cat food and Fido dog food brands, has 13 per cent of the European pet food market. With Spillers, Dalgety's existing pet food business, the enlarged operation will have a 21 per cent share. Mars, the market leader, has 46 per cent.

Mr Clothier said there was considerable scope to cut costs by merging the two businesses and he forecasts annual savings of £40 million after three years. He expects job losses will run into the hundreds, although most of the cuts will be on the Continent.

Analysts broadly welcomed the move, although some said Dalgety had paid a full price for a business that last year made operating profits of just £20 million.

The group also reported a rise in pre-tax profits to £60.9 million from £56.4 million in the six months to June 30. The interim dividend is 8.5p (8.0p).

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BUSINESS TODAY

[illegible]

FT-SE 100	3059.7	(+25.0)
Yield	4.24%	
FT-SE A All share	1506.71	(+9.52)
Nikkei	18538.97	(−65.33)
New York:		
Dow Jones	3915.52	(+44.75)*
S&P Composite	477.49	(+4.70)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 15/16%*	(6%)
Long Bond	98[illegible]*	(97⅛)
Yield	7.64%*	(7.75%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	5[illegible]%	(6[illegible]%)
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	101[illegible]	(102[illegible])

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5653*	(1.5825)
London:		
$	1.5643	(1.5825)
DM	2.3854	(2.4043)
FFr	8.2770	(8.3350)
SFr	2.0190	(2.0321)
Yen	156.00	(157.41)
£ Index	79.1	(79.8)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.5255*	(1.5180)
FFr	5.2970*	(5.2610)
SFr	1.2910*	(1.2848)
Yen	99.72*	(99.43)
$ Index	n/a	(82.6)

Tokyo close Yen 99.50

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Apr)	$16.75	($16.65)

GOLD

London close	$376.15	($376.05)

* denotes midday trading price

Bank warning

National Westminster Bank has written to its 55,700 branch staff warning that 1994 was a "difficult year" and that parts of its business had failed to reach targets. The letter has prompted concern that up to half the staff will get no pay rise this year. Page 22

Pound hurt by political uncertainty

STERLING weakened yesterday to a five-month low against the mark, under pressure after showing no positive reaction to Thursday's base rate rise and on continuing uncertainties surrounding the British Government (Janet Bush writes).

The pound's trade weighted index, based on the new calculation in force this week, closed at 87.9 compared with 88.6 on Thursday. Sterling hit a low of 2.3840 against the mark before closing at DM2.3862, down from DM2.4038 on Thursday.

Political worries, stirred up by the renewed debate over Northern Ireland, were exacerbated by an article in *The Economist* saying that the Government could fall "sooner than anyone yet believes" over European policy.

The dollar was strong in its own right after US factory goods jumped by 1.7 per cent in December against expectations of a 0.9 per cent rise.

Consumer credit soars by £865m

By Patricia Tehan

DEMAND for private credit soared in December as consumers flocked to the shops to buy household goods and "big ticker" items such as cars, vindicating Thursday's base rate increase.

Adam Cole, economist with James Capel, said: "Consumer borrowing is surging at rates above those seen at the time of the late 1980s boom and the breakdown of the data suggests that much of this is financing discretionary spending on durable goods."

He added that the figures confirmed that recent consumer spending gloom had been "grossly overdone" and that base rates have much further to rise this year.

Official statistics published yesterday showed a net £865 million increase in demand for credit, against expectations of a £550 million rise. November's credit data was revised to show an increase of £707 million, from £677 million. Andrew Milligan, economist at New Japan Securities, said the higher-than-expected December figure was likely to be associated with the 0.5 per cent rise in retail sales at Christmas, and the increase in net borrowing on credit cards.

Net credit card borrowing rose to £333 million, and compares with £100 million to £200 million a month in the previous three months. Borrowing from banks rose to £402 million, just below November's exceptionally strong £483 million.

Figures from the British Bankers' Association showed a dip in loan growth by the major British banking groups in the fourth quarter against the third quarter of 1994. In the final quarter, the net rise in bank lending was £3.265 billion, against £3.34 billion in the third quarter. The December increase was £1.46 billion.

AAH shares hit by trading statement

By George Sivell, assistant business editor

Padovan: pegging the final

SHARES in AAH, the wholesale pharmaceutical group, dropped 41p to 280p yesterday after a grim trading statement that included revelation of a £3 million theft of cheques from customers, discovered as the rest of the statement was being prepared for the Stock Exchange on Thursday.

The theft was spotted by a diligent bank teller who noticed that the name on a series of cheques, AAH Pharmaceuticals, did not tally with the name of the account into which they were being paid. The banks are co-operating fully with AAH and have now discovered a number of recently opened accounts. Merseyside police are understood to be investigating and examining security camera film from bank branches. The cheques were originally written out by retail chemists settling monthly accounts with AAH.

John Padovan, the AAH chairman, also revealed yesterday that its environmental services division, which empties the dustbins in Wandsworth and cuts the grass in London's Regent's Park among other contracts, will suffer a £3 million loss in the year to the end of March. The loss covers the cost of provisions for contracts which appear to have been taken on at a loss. AAH also revealed that profits from distribution services will fall substantially below last time's £2.3 million. The division is trying to get out of low-margin contract work and build up the more profitable shared-user service with retail pharmacists.

AAH, however, said its core wholesale and retail healthcare businesses continue to perform soundly, with sales growth exceeding the British market average. A maintained final dividend of 11.9p a share is expected to be recommended.

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Bank of Ireland Mortgages

Countdown for Maxwell's pensioners

MELVYN MARCKUS

◆

The ghost of Robert Maxwell lingers on: dragging behind it a £440 million ball and chain. This, it may be recalled, was the sum which Maxwell purloined from almost any pension fund that tickled his fancy. The coffers of Mirror Group Newspapers and Maxwell Communication Corporation, his two publicly quoted enterprises, proved irresistible; as did others within Maxwell's private empire. All in all, Maxwell's quaint little ways affected some 30,000 pensioners.

A ray of light, in the shape of the Maxwell Pensioners' Trust's attempt to secure a "global" settlement on the part of certain financial institutions, recently passed behind a cloud. Last month saw the deadline for the global deal finally run out and Sir John Cuckney, the government-appointed arbiter between the pension funds and City institutions, stepped down as head of the Maxwell Pensioners' Trust. Sir John emerged as formal adviser to Peter Lilley, Social Security Secretary, and let it be known that he would attempt to broker a final round of talks, swiftly dubbed "son of global settlement".

Almost everything associated with the global settlement, and its successor, has been cloaked in a degree of anonymity: a scenario in which Sir John, a one-time denizen of MI5, is admirably cast. Sir Peter Webster, who formerly chaired the Maxwell Pensioners' Trust, spent the best part of two years attempting to clinch a settlement. When the Law Debenture Trust, trustee of the Maxwell Communication Staff Plan, pulled out of talks, albeit temporarily, Sir Peter bowed out. Critics perceived Sir Peter, a former High Court judge, as a little too fair to certain parties closely identified with the Maxwell fiasco. Enter Sir John, with his own particular brand of fairness. His subsequent decision to pass over the Maxwell Pensioners' Trust's reins to Jane Newell, a founder trustee, distanced himself from the pension funds. It also served to flag his role as a government emissary.

Anonymous as the global deal may have been, various details have emerged. It is eminently clear that, although Global Settlement Mk I broke down, agreement was almost within reach. In broad brush terms, the original deficit, courtesy of the "Bouncing Czech," was some £440 million. Although difficult to ascertain, recoveries would appear to tot up to something approaching £100 million. This figure is often put at £180 million, confusion arising from the fact that some £80 million was in the kitty to start with. Genuine recoveries include some £25 million worth of Teva shares returned by the NatWest, approximately £27 million worth of investments handed over by Lehman Brothers and proceeds from the Invesco-MIM settlement. But, bearing in mind that Maxwell parted company with the *Lady Ghislaine* in November 1991, liabilities have inevitably risen. Put another way, the recoveries of £100 million do little more than make good the lost investment returns on the lost assets: so much so that the black hole is still perceived to be in the region of £400 million.

It was in the autumn of 1992 that Lilley agreed to offer the Maxwell pension funds an effective interest-free loan by permitting the funds to defer payments of the State Scheme Premiums, due to cover a major "contracting in" exercise which served to guarantee a minimum pension. The Government, by all accounts, may be willing to continue this deferral for some, possibly all, of the blighted funds. That said, continuance is not forgiveness. Should Sir John's velvet glove achieve a settlement, litigation against those outside the agreement will start immediately. Funds recouped will metamorphose into premium repayments. Should the settlement talks founder, litigation will commence against all parties — lengthy and costly.

Let us return to the deficit of £400 million. The Government's deferral policy is effectively worth around £100 million, cutting the gap to some £300 million. Word has it that a figure of around £250 million was on the table from institutions keen to deal out. So, with a mid-February deadline in the air, the debate centres on some £50 million.

Which institutions, you may ask, are involved in this £50 million debate? Information, on this count is exceedingly hard to come by but MCC, under the administration of Price Waterhouse, is clearly in the frame, as are Maxwell's private companies, under the administration of Arthur Andersen. Goldman Sachs and Lehman Bros are unlikely to have escaped Sir Peter's attention, while Coopers & Lybrand, auditors to so much of Maxwell's empire, presumably comes relatively high on the list. One way or another, Sir John is rumoured to be negotiating with half a dozen or so parties: some of which are rumoured to have proved significantly more co-operative than others. Creditors of MCC are understood to be particularly keen to see a settlement achieved, not least because Law Debenture, trustee to the Maxwell Communication Pension Plan, is making claims against a host of subsidiaries, a factor which makes it difficult for Price Waterhouse to pay dividends up to the MCC parent. Not a few US "vulture funds" now number among the creditors.

MCC, courtesy of administrators Price Waterhouse, has, for its part, taken legal action against Coopers. While defending this, Coopers also has to contend with an inquiry into its pension scheme audits by the Joint Disciplinary Scheme, spearheaded by the Institute of Chartered Accountants. In the event, the Government comes out of the Maxwell saga relatively well. Positive action heralded the appointment of Sir John in an advisory capacity, along with the creation of the Maxwell Pensioners Trust, the Maxwell Pensioners Charitable Trust and the Maxwell Pensions Unit within the Department of Social Security. Also doing immense good by stealth is Law Debenture which has prepared, along with solicitors Nabarro Nathanson, many of the cases which Sir John is holding in that velvet glove.

Should the talks fail, memories will prove long.

Bank chief warns staff of tough year

By Patricia Tehan, banking correspondent

NATIONAL Westminster Bank has written to its 55,700 branch staff warning that 1994 was a "difficult year" and that parts of its business have failed to reach targets. The letter has prompted concern that up to half the staff will get no pay rise this year.

Union representatives claim the bank is likely to have made profits of more than £1.5 billion in 1994 and say the pay offer is "derisory" and the workforce "demorilised".

In his letter to staff, Martin Gray, chief executive of NatWest UK, said 1994 had been "difficult". He said the first-half improvement in profits was largely due to lower bad-debt provisions, costs were rising, income had fallen and he expected 1995 to be a "tough year".

Mike Trippitt, banking analyst with Warburg Securities, said the message from Mr Gray was "pretty pessimistic", but that NatWest seemed to be prepared to compete for business at the expense of revenues.

The row between NatWest and its staff comes at the start of the financial reporting season for the banking sector, which will be kicked off next Friday by Lloyds. The banks are thought likely to report profits totalling £10 billion for 1994, up from £7 billion in 1993.

Dai Davies, assistant general secretary of the NatWest Staff Association, said the bank's performance-related pay offer meant that 65 per cent of staff would get an increase in basic pay of less than 1 per cent, and a "significant" number would not receive a pay rise.

A NatWest spokesman said the offer, effective from April, would give rises of between 0 and 9 per cent, depending on a worker's performance. She said at least half the staff would receive a pay rise exceeding the current rate of inflation and "a small minority" would not receive a rise in basic pay.

However, she added, most staff would benefit from a profit-sharing scheme and the bank felt that "pay should not be reviewed in isolation but as part of a total reward package which includes basic pay, performance bonus, profit sharing and other non-cash benefits".

Rory Murphy, general secretary of the staff association, said: "To offer staff, who have contributed to the vast profit expected, a cost-of-living and performance increase of nothing defies belief." The association represents 60 per cent of NatWest workers.

Bifu, the banking and finance union, said the offer would hit experienced and long-serving staff the hardest.

The staff association had claimed a 7 per cent rise, Bifu had claimed 5 per cent or £500, whichever was greater. Both plan to go back to the negotiating table with NatWest this month.

PETER TRIEVNOR

Gordon Thomas, of Lydney, left, and John Robertshaw

Shorco buys Lydney

SHORCO Group Holdings, the plant hire specialist, announced the acquisition of Lydney Containers Holdings, a maker of high security on-site accommodation and storage units, for a profit-related consideration of up to £1.7 million. Shorco is raising £1.4 million through a rights issue. Existing shares fell 2p to 110p.

The company, whose chairman is John Robertshaw, forecast a rise in profits to £560,000 before tax for 1994 from £284,000 in the previous year, with earnings of not less than 8p a share (4.3p).

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Barlow stands down as BSkyB chairman

FRANK BARLOW, managing director of Pearson, the media group, is to stand down as chairman of BSkyB, the satellite television company, with immediate effect. Mr Barlow, who had held the post for four years, will be replaced as chairman by Gerry Robinson, an existing director and chief executive of Granada Group, which has a 10.8 per cent stake in BSkyB. Greg Dyke, the former chief executive of London Weekend Television who joined Pearson last month to head its television division, will take Mr Barlow's seat on the board.

In a statement yesterday, Mr Barlow, said that given Mr Dyke's new responsibilities and his background in television it was only sensible that he should act as the board representative of Pearson, which holds 14.02 per cent of BSkyB. News International, owner of *The Times*, is a major shareholder. BSkyB shares rose 5.5p to 263.5p on the news.

Fewer businesses fail

THE number of companies going out of business fell sharply in the last three months of 1994. The British Chambers of Commerce said there were 3,600 company insolvencies in England and Wales in the fourth quarter on a seasonally adjusted basis, 19 per cent fewer than the previous quarter and 23 per cent down on the corresponding period in 1993. During the year as a whole, there was a total of 16,728 insolvencies in England and Wales, 19 per cent fewer than in 1993.

SIB to wind up firm

THE Securities and Investments Board has obtained an order in the High Court appointing the Official Receiver as provisional liquidator of Investment Marketing International pending an SIB petition for the compulsory winding-up of the company. It operated from Britannia Pavilion in Albert Dock Village, Liverpool. Investors in the company, which was ordered to cease investment business in December, should contact the Official Receiver, 21 Bloomsbury Street, London WC1B 3SS.

Insurer's sales dip

SCOTTISH WIDOWS, the life insurance group, saw its sales decline sharply in 1994, against the background of the personal pensions scandal whose effects were felt throughout the industry. New pensions business (annual and single premium) fell by 23 per cent from £495.4 million to £380.8 million, and there was a 12 per cent drop in demand for life policies from £104.4 million to £92.4 million. The company believes that the figures are "in line with the market average".

Etam shares fall on profit warning

By Susan Gilchrist

SHARES in Etam, the women's fashion retailer, dropped 18p to 183p yesterday as the company gave warning that operating profits for 1994 would be below the previous year's level.

The group said the bottom line had been hit by weak demand in the crucial winter months as a result of unseasonably warm weather, and poorly-targeted merchandise.

Profits were also affected by more than 60 of the group's 224 stores closing temporarily for refits.

Etam now expects operating profits for the year to January 28 to be between £11 million and £12 million, well down on the £14.5 million achieved in the previous 12 months. It intends to recommend a maintained final dividend of 5.75p, making a total payout of 7.7p, a small increase on the 7.5p paid in 1993, but below City expectations of about 8.5p.

Analysts promptly downgraded their pre-tax profit forecasts to about £12 million from about £18 million.

John Richards, retail analyst at NatWest Securities, believes the group's problems go beyond store disruption and the warm autumn weather which has hurt all clothing retailers. He believes Etam has become uncompetitive on price, and has suffered from the revival at Dorothy Perkins, its main rival.

Managers and staff win CPL

A BUYOUT team of management and employees has succeeded with a £72 million bid for Coal Products (CPL), the solid fuels manufacturing business of British Coal (Martin Barrow writes).

The team, headed by David Foster, operations director, was chosen ahead of three other shortlisted bids and was backed by Legal & General Ventures.

CPL estimates that it has about 30 per cent of the UK solid smokeless fuel market and some 60 per cent of the UK foundry coke market. Operating profit was about £16 million on turnover of £131 million in the last financial year — its best performance since the mid-1970s. The company employs 500 people.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.20	2.03
Austria Sch	17.87	16.37
Belgium Fr	52.36	48.06
Canada $	2.325	2.165
Cyprus Cyp£	0.781	0.726
Denmark Kr	10.07	9.27
Finland Mkk	8.00	7.35
France Fr	8.76	8.11
Germany Dm	2.55	2.34
Greece Dr	395.00	370.00
Hong Kong $	12.86	11.86
Ireland Pt	1.06	0.98
Italy Lira	2645.00	2490.00
Japan Yen	171.50	155.50
Malta	0.618	0.563
Netherlds Gld	2.839	2.609
Norway Kr	11.10	10.30
Portugal Esc	259.00	240.50
S Africa Rd	ref.	5.36
Spain Pta	215.50	201.50
Sweden Kr	12.39	11.59
Switzerland Fr	2.16	1.98
Turkey Lira	refer	62029.0
USA $	1.678	1.548

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank plc. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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Business — The Sunday Times tomorrow

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KPMG: Colin Sharman and Gerry Acher

Slugging it out for the title of top accountants

partners in power

Jon Ashworth talks to the men who run a giant money-making machine thriving on attention to detail

If one has to be cornered by two accountants at a drinks party, they might as well be Colin Sharman and Gerry Acher. One is built like a boxer and looks as though he might tear your head off at the slightest provocation. The other is reminiscent of the aspirant Lion Tamer of Monty Python fame. Mild-mannered and bespectacled, he dreams of a life in the Big Top, cracking his whip to keep the snarling beasts at bay.

Those who know Acher, 49, will chuckle at the thought. As head of audit and accounting at KPMG, he oversees a giant money-making machine which thrives on plain, boring, attention to detail. Auditing is dull. But wait. This is also the man who nearly fell 800 feet to his death scaling a mountain peak, and who races vintage cars to relax. Could there be something behind the unassuming facade?

Sharman, for his part, is about as far from the traditional caricature of an accountant as it is possible to be. One can more easily picture him lugging huge sides of beef through Smithfield meat market, or slugging it out in the boxing ring, downing his opponent in a hail of well-aimed blows.

Just over a year since he became senior partner of KPMG, inheriting an 8,800-employee firm with a fee income of more than £500 million a year, Sharman, 51, has decided to take on the rest of the UK accounting profession. Fists flying, he is going for the knockout. He wants to make KPMG the "Cazenove" of the accountancy world. Acher, if you like, is his manager. While Sharman throws the punches, Acher is there in the background, making sure that the bills are paid on time.

These are difficult times for accountancy firms. Most of the big players have been caught up in one or another high-profile City scandal. Price Waterhouse and Ernst & Young are on the receiving end of an $8 billion lawsuit over their role as auditors to the Bank of Credit and Commerce International. Auditors have been branded as not only boring, but dangerous, too.

Acher, at the top of a pyramid that embraces 350 partners and 4,500 staff, and generates fees of about £210 million, is refreshingly candid on this point.

> ‘My job is simply to make our audit practice the best’

"My challenge is to raise the standards of auditing," he says. "I don't mind admitting that probably in the rush of the late eighties our standards may not have been as high as we would like them to have been. It was the dash for growth, the 'easy money' attitude."

Firms, he says, were sharply brought to heel by the massive swell of litigation surrounding the big company frauds. The damage, he concedes, will take years to repair. "Gradually, the stigma of the late eighties will be removed, but it is a long, slow process. Some might say we may not even succeed."

Acher rightly points out that KPMG has escaped the worst of the big scandals — although one feels he may be tempting fate there. Who can forget the Ferranti debacle? In 1991, the firm agreed to pay £40 million to settle a lawsuit arising from the discovery of a massive fraud at International Signals. As recently as January 1994, KPMG paid out nearly £64 million in settlement over its auditing of Tricontinental, an Australian merchant bank that collapsed with debts of Aus$2.6 billion.

PETER TRIEVNOR

Colin Sharman, left, is battling to make KPMG the 'Cazenove' of accountancy: Gerry Acher makes sure the bills are paid on time

What of Acher the family man? Married and with two sons, he has lived in the same house in Cobham, Surrey, for the past 20 years. He is at his desk by just after 8am and spends "three or four" evenings a week at dinners or meetings. Weekends are for the family.

Acher nearly came to a sticky end as a 21-year-old student when a climbing trip to the Lake District went wrong. "I had just done a glorious climb up Pillar Rock," he recalls. "I was preparing to abseil down the first 70 feet when I tripped and went head over heels over the edge. It should have been 800 feet to my death." Miraculously, his foot jammed in a crack just six feet below the summit.

These days, he and his wife, Joyce, are more likely to be found hill-walking, or tackling vintage car rallies. He is also a good community man (the auditor again), doing much for the charity Motability, which helps to get disabled people on to the road.

Sharman spent his early childhood in Eritrea and Egypt before settling at school in Salisbury. He joined Peat Marwick Mitchell in 1966 and held various posts in the UK and mainland Europe before becoming senior regional partner for the South East in 1990. Three years in the job left him branded as a hatchet man — nearly 1,000 staff axed in two waves of blood-letting — but Sharman made no apologies for his actions. "I can detach myself when a business decision is involved," he said at the time.

There are those who talk of the KPMG mafia — Sharman and his inner ring versus the rest. Certainly, an element of this persists. Sharman and Acher leave regional committees to run the show, but reserve the right to step in and veto decisions at any time.

"My job is, as a chairman, not to get involved in the day to day running," he says. "I only intervene when there's something manifestly going wrong."

Sharman spends very little time in his office these days, which is just as well, since it looks like a storeroom. His desk is almost buried behind photographic paraphenalia. A photo of Sharman sailing with Prince Edward hangs on the wall, a legacy of their mutual support for the Ocean Youth Club, a sailing charity. Sharman's son has been studying boat-building in Southampton, and flies to New Zealand on Monday to test his mettle in southern waters. His daughter is about to start at the Royal Berkshire Hospital as an ENT specialist.

His wife, Angie, has her hands full running the family farm in Tytherton Lucas, Wiltshire, source of Sharman's own-label Bosmere wine. The Roux brothers, Albert and Michel, are close family friends, although their opinion of the wine is not known.

He talks zealously of his ambitions for the firm: how he wants to make auditors respected once more, and repackage services for clients.

He echoes Acher's views on City scandals. "We have a relatively clean sheet. By comparison, touch wood, we don't have a Maxwell, a BCCI, a Polly Peck. We have been able to take the high ground."

Sharman hopes to build on the idea of an all-in-one package, in which a lead partner will act as the point of contact for all the firm's services. I venture the word "salesman". This irritates Sharman. He prefers the concept of a specialist adviser.

It all comes down to rebranding: dropping Peat Marwick from the name, asking clients how the firm can do better. "So what's new? Not a helluva lot, but we're going to do it quicker and better." Has he any regrets over the name change? "It's a bloody hard business world out there. You've got to focus on the next century. I want KPMG to be synonymous with the best."

So what does Acher think of Sharman and his mission? "We both share the same view of where the accountancy professions should be going and how one should be getting there. His job is the bigger scene, the firm as a whole. My job is quite simply to make our audit practice the best."

Sharman concurs. "He was my choice for that job and he's done exactly what I wanted him to do: put auditing back into the spotlight."

Speculation that could lift the Hong Kong dollar off its peg

The colony ties its currency to the US, but for how long? asks **Michael Steinberger**

The Hong Kong and American economies are headed in opposite directions

Hong Kong's property market is collapsing and its stock market is reeling, but an even worse problem could be on the way: the Hong Kong dollar may fall victim to a speculative assault similar to the one that dislodged sterling from Europe's exchange-rate mechanism (ERM) in 1992.

Like sterling before its devaluation, the Hong Kong dollar is bound to an exchange-rate mechanism: it is pegged to the US dollar at a fixed rate of 7.80. The currency link was establised amid a political crisis in 1983 and has since become the linchpin of Hong Kong's financial system. London and Peking consider the peg inviolable in the run-up to 1997, when Britain cedes the territory to China.

But David Roche, president of the London research firm Independent Strategy, believes the peg is doomed. He predicts that currency traders will soon target the Hong Kong dollar and sever its link to the greenback.

Peter Churchhouse, managing director of equity research at Morgan Stanley Asia, says: "If there was a concerted run at any currency, it would be quite difficult for any government to defend it. And Hong Kong is no exception."

The peg is considered vulnerable because it has become an economic liability. To keep the value of the Hong Kong dollar steady, interest rates in the territory must track US rates: but the two economies now move in opposite directions.

In the early 1990s, the US recession forced the Federal Reserve to slash interest rates. Hong Kong's Monetary Authority, its quasi-central bank, was obliged to follow suit, despite the territory's robust economic growth. Low interest rates further stimulated the buoyant economy and sparked a speculative binge in Hong Kong stocks and properties.

The twin asset bubbles are now deflating but, with the Federal Reserve raising interest rates to check the booming American economy, the Monetary Authority is also hiking rates. This is expected to prolong or even accelerate a bear market that has already caused the Hang Seng index to fall 35 per cent and trimmed property values by 20 per cent.

Peter Everington, managing director of Hong Kong's Regent Fund Management, said recently: "Few have realised that Hong Kong's bubble was every bit as excessive as that of Tokyo by the end of the 1980s. The coming pain will doubtless be comparably severe."

Mr Everington believes that breaking the peg would ease the economy's downturn. However, other Hong Kong investors support the fixed exchange rate. Patrick Thomas, managing director of Oakreed Financial Services, says: "When you have the uncertainty of political changeover, the area in which you need absolute certainty is the currency."

And as Mr Everington concedes: "Any fixed rate can be maintained if you are willing to face the pain." So far, Hong Kong's Government has shown that it is.

Last month, the Monetary Authority struck a pre-emptive blow against speculators when it more than doubled short-term interest rates in two days. Rates are now back to their original levels.

The warning shot is not likely to deter hedge fund managers like George Soros; but Ian Perkin, chief economist for the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce, thinks speculators may not realise that the Hong Kong dollar peg is fundamentally different — and stronger — than the "crawling peg" that tied sterling to the ERM. The ERM allowed sterling to float within wide bands around its fixed parity against the mark. This latitude enabled currency traders to repeatedly challenge the Major Government's commitment to the peg.

Hong Kong, however, operates a currency-board system which requires that for every 7.80 Hong Kong dollars issued into the domestic market, one US dollar must be deposited with the Monetary Authority's exchange fund. This mechanism makes it very costly to speculate against the currency. Mr Perkin explains: "The Hong Kong dollar can float as much it likes, but the exchange fund will only accept dollars at 7.80, so it will always come back there. Otherwise, someone is going to get badly burnt."

If speculators risk an assault regardless, and interest rate hikes fail to curb selling, the currency-board system provides the Monetary Authority with ample foreign exchange reserves — US$43 billion at the last count — to defend the currency.

But James Lister-Cheese, of Investment Strategy, doubts that the Hong Kong Government would be allowed to deploy this weapon. "China would prefer to have the foreign exchange reserves," he reckons.

With fewer than 900 days until Hong Kong is repatriated, currency speculators may force some unpleasant decisions on London and Peking. If China will not permit Hong Kong to protect the currency peg with its foreign exchange holdings, and higher interest rates send its economy into a tailspin, the Government will have little choice but to let the dollar float.

However, Alan Hunt, chief economist of Hong Kong's Thornton Management (Asia), believes breaking the peg would do more harm than keeping it. He says a floating Hong Kong dollar would be extremely volatile and more damaging than high interest rates.

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STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Share prices buoyant as US economy slows down

SHARE prices in London and New York were in buoyant mood before the weekend, after further evidence of a slowdown in the US economy. Investors on both sides of the Atlantic took heart from the latest US employment figures.

Share prices in London put in a last-minute advance to close at their best of the day, supported by strong gains in bonds and equities on Wall Street, where the Dow Jones index sported an early lead of more than 50 points.

The FT-SE 100 index, which had marked time for much of the day, finished 25 points up at 3,059.7, with the suddenness of the rush for shares catching traders on the hop. It stretched the rise on the week for the index to 37.5.

A mixed program trade carried out by NatWest Securities, the broker, expanded the number of shares changing hands to 654 million. Traders also reported a flurry of activity in the futures pit, where the March series of the FT-SE 100 closed at a 16-point premium to the cash market.

Dalgety, the Spillers and Homepride food group, climbed 20p to 416p after splashing out $700 million on Quaker Foods' European pet foods business, the second biggest on the Continent. The deal will be partly financed by a one-for-four rights issue at 335p, raising £186 million. Dalgety also hopes to raise a further £300 million by disposing of its Golden Wonder and Homepride food businesses. Dalgety also reported half-year figures showing pre-tax profits 8 per cent ahead at £60.9 million, with a strong performance from its food ingredients business. The group was optimistic about prospects for the remainder of the year.

News of the Dalgety disposals could bode well for **Unigate**, unchanged at 360p, which is soon expected to sell its 35 per cent holding in Nutricia, the Dutch baby foods group.

There was little activity on the takeover front. **Wellcome** advanced to within a few pence of the terms from Glaxo with a rise of 13p to £10.18 as investors continued to reflect on Thursday's profits news. Brokers such as NatWest Securities and BZW doubt that a white knight will materialise and take the view that it is only a matter of time before Glaxo seizes control. **Glaxo** shares advanced another 20p to 666p.

Trafalgar House firmed 1p to 65p as shareholders approved the decision to bid for **Northern Electric**, 3p easier at 958p.

United Biscuits stood out with a rise of 10p to 333p as bid talk resurfaced. Speculators are convinced that the company will one day attract a bid from a predator anxious to acquire UB's impressive list of brand names. Nestlé and Danone in Europe are seen as likely suitors, along with Philip Morris in the US.

Newcomer **BSkyB** responded positively to news of a boardroom reshuffle, with the price adding 5½p to 263½p. Frank Barlow, the chairman, is stepping down and will be succeeded in the role by fellow director Gerry Robinson, who is also chief executive of Granada Group. Mr Barlow's place on the board will be taken by Greg Dyke, former chief of LWT Holdings, who was recently appointed by Pearson to take care of its television interests. Mr Robinson's promotion is likely to allay market fears that Granada was on the verge of selling its 10 per cent stake in BSkyB.

The market was forced to contend with another clutch of profit warnings. **Etam**, the womenswear clothing group, was the first, losing 23p at 178p. Analysts quickly began downgrading their pre-tax profit estimates for the full year of around £18 million compared with £14 million last time after the group said that trading had been hit by the warm autumn weather, a poor product line and disruption caused by refurbishment. Etam has forecast operating profits of £11-£12 million.

Another casualty was **Sterling Publishing**, the USM-quoted publishing house, which saw its share price more than halve with a fall of 55p to 38p after warning that profits would fall significantly short of market expectations. The company blamed falling sales, and a growing number of uncollected debts in Eastern Europe. Brokers had originally been looking for pre-tax profits of £7-£8 million.

AAH, the healthcare group, dropped 41p to 280p after the group warned that stolen cheques, combined with a sharp downturn in its enviromental services and distribution businesses, would see it plunge into the red this year. Enviromental services are expected to make a loss of £3 million, compared with a profit of almost £4 million. The distribution operation is also expected to be sharply down on last year's profit of £2.3 million.

Rank Organisation slipped 3p to 376p, despite Collins Stewart, the stockbroker, reiterating its "buy" stance. It says the partial sale of its Rank Xerox stake has seen Rank's share price drop 7 per cent in relative terms, leaving the price undervalued 24 per cent. Collins Stewart gave warning that this sort of weakness in the shares could see Rank attract a predator.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Gilts opened lower on the back of a weaker pound, ignoring gains stretching to more than a point among US Treasury bonds.

The sell-off accelerated after the latest consumer credit figures showing a sharp rise in borrowing during the peak Christmas period. Attempts at a rally later in the day on the back of the US payroll numbers proved futile.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt finished £9/32 lower at £101¾ as the number of contracts completed soared to 86,000.

Among conventional issues Treasury 8 per cent 2013 slipped £5/16 to £95 17/32, while at the shorter end of the market Treasury 8 per cent 2000 eased three ticks to £97 17/32.

☐ **NEW YORK:** US shares were sharply higher at midday, with the Dow Jones industrial average surging 44.75 points to 3,915.52. Advancing issues led declining shares by about 17 to five.

Keith Miles, Etam finance director, left, and Rodney East

A buy signal from Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker, ahead of next week's third quarter figures lifted BT 7½p to 402½p. Henderson expects a positive statement and says the profits warning from Vodafone and the speed with which institutions sold their C&W shares to Veba will focus attention on BT.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
Etam	183p	-17p	Profits warning
ACT Group	76p	-16p	Second profits warning
Norish	65p	-33p	Warning on dividend
Costain Group	23½p	+4¾p	Bid approach
Sterling Publishing	43p	-50p	Profits warning
OMI International	28½p	-12½p	Profits warning
AAH	282p	-34p	Profits warning
United Biscuits	333p	+11p	Bid hopes revived
Lloyds Abbey	361p	+31p	Revived bid talk

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 3915.52 (+44.75)
S&P Composite 477.49 (+4.70)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 18538.97 (-65.33)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 7478.92 (+136.27)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index 412.54 (+3.14)

Sydney:
AO 1847.7 (-8.8)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2057.99 (+12.74)

Singapore:
Straits 2110.24 (+9.31)

Brussels:
General 7113.87 (+11.77)

Paris:
CAC-40 1842.43 (+26.33)

Zurich:
SKA Gen 623.30 (+2.50)

London:
FT 30 2319.8 (+16.5)
FT 100 3059.7 (+25.0)
FT-SE Mid 250 3390.2 (+6.4)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100 1324.25 (+11.37)
FT A All-Share 1506.71 (+9.52)
FT Non Financials 1634.82 (+9.52)
FT Gold Mines 205.7 (+8.3)
FT Fixed Interest 109.58 (-0.04)
FT Govt Secs 91.23 (-0.15)
Bargains 21316
SEAQ Volume 654.5m
USM (Datastrm) 147.53 (+0.98)
US$ 1.5647 (-0.0173)
German Mark 2.3862 (-0.0176)
Exchange Index 79.1 (-0.7)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
£:ECU 1.2613
£:SDR 1.0773
RPI 146.0 Dec (2.9%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

First Russ Front ($10)	570	...
Gart Micro Index Uts	96	+1
Gart Micro Wts	41	...
Lazard Birla Ida	53	+½
Lazard Birla Ida Wts	31	+¼
MCIT S Cap (35)	34	...
MCIT S Inc (35)	36	...
Mthsn Lloyds Inv (100)	81	...
Pentex Oil	95	...
Woodchester Units	125	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Dares Estates n/p (4)	½	...
Verity n/p (7½)	¼	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
HSBC 652p (+18p)
SG Warburg 761p (+9p)
Wolseley 775p (+13p)
ICI 746p (+8p)
Inchcape 317p (+16p)
Sime Darby 137p (+12p)
Bensons Crisps 26p (+8p)
Dalgety 419p (+23p)
Utd Biscuits 333p (+10p)
Legal & Gen 440p (+8p)
Blenheim Group 209p (+17p)
Thomson Corp 735p (+10p)
Govett 346p (+7p)
Glaxo 666p (+20p)
ADT 628p (+8p)
Coats Viyella 181p (+6p)
Wensum 132p (+7p)

FALLS:
Heavitree 150p (-6p)
Brit Build & Eng 135p (-8p)
Courtaulds 416p (-8p)
Atkins 75p (-8p)
Highland Distl 383p (-22p)
Mitel 252p (-8p)
AAH 282p (-39p)
Amersham 817p (-10p)
Sterling Pub 43p (-50p)
De La Rue 1006p (-11p)
Etam 183p (-18p)
Essex Furn 128p (-7p)

Closing Prices Page 33

TEMPUS

Reigning cats and dogs

NO ONE will ever call it Dull-gety again. The group is taking an enormous gamble to transform itself from being a diverse British food manufacturer into a European specialist in a growth market.

No one can fault Richard Clothier, chief executive, on his vision. Before he arrived, Dalgety was a dog's breakfast of unrelated food businesses. This is not a move for the faint-hearted. Even though the price for Quaker's European Pet Food business, at less than turnover, is cheaper than most in the food industry recently, it will leave the group with initial gearing of more than 200 per cent.

Dalgety's two big gambles are that it will be able to sell its consumer foods business quickly and raise enough to cut debts radically, and that it can squeeze out the £40 million in efficiency benefits it is promising by 1997 to ensure it enhances earnings. Some of the consumer foods businesses will be easier to sell than others. While Homepride's sauces earn solid margins, the Golden Wonder crisp operation is struggling in a market swamped with capacity. Meanwhile, European employment laws will not make it easy to execute the sort of rationalisation of Quaker that Dalgety plans.

If it succeeds, Dalgety will be a powerful, multinational operator in two growth markets, pet food and food ingredients. Even though it will still play second fiddle to Mars in pet foods, the market is large enough and margins high enough to keep both companies happy. The only other way that Mr Clothier could have enhanced shareholder value so effectively would have been to sit tight and wait for an eventual bidder.

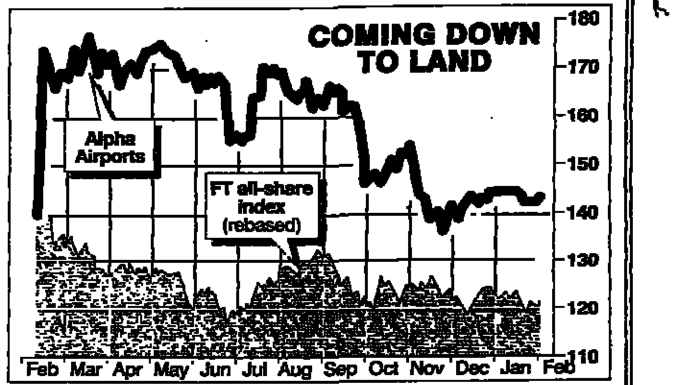
Alpha Airports

A YEAR after coming to the market, Alpha Airports Group is flexing its muscles. Yesterday's acquisition of two in-flight catering kitchens in Miami and Orlando and the disposal of the Portuguese business are good examples of how the group can improve its earnings stream on a modest capital outlay.

The Portuguese business was doomed as soon as TAP, the national carrier, entered the catering business last June. This removed 55 per cent of the market and created heavy over-capacity. Alpha should be grateful that Gate Gourmet has bought it out.

The in-flight catering market in Florida looks far more promising. Jerry's has only 11 per cent of the Orlando market and 5 per cent in Miami, so Alpha has considerable scope for growth. It would like to pick up some of the airlines it caters for elsewhere, particularly large charter companies such as Britannia. The transatlantic market also has higher margins than the European since airlines serve full meals instead of snacks.

The fact that Alpha can make acquisitions at all is a tribute to the management, which has almost halved gearing of 82 per cent since the float. Even so, the shares at 143p are now only hovering above the 140p offer price. Forte's 25 per cent stake is overhanging the market, leaving the shares looking undervalued on an earnings multiple of 13.



AAH

THERE is something familiar about a company that drops its tales of woe on to the stock market late on Friday afternoon when dealers are heading home. But AAH had too many disasters to report to escape attention. If the trading difficulties in its peripheral businesses were not bad enough, the extraordinary theft of £3 million of customer cheques allowed the City community to start the weekend with a good joke to tell their friends.

The theft of a mailbag full of cheques does not say much about AAH's security or financial systems, but in reality it is the least of the company's problems. Some of the cash is already being recovered and insurers should put the rest of the damage right.

More worrying is the £3 million loss from environmental services and the slump in profits in distribution services, which knocked £6 million off City forecasts yesterday. The waste industry has laid low larger companies than AAH, while distribution is a business for the large operators. AAH should not be in either.

The sooner it sells them and concentrates on its core pharmaceutical interests, the better. The company is in an excellent position to sign lucrative distribution contracts with the major drug companies.

While it is bogged down with its other problems, it is allowing Unichem to steal a march on it. The group will need to take positive action to correct its failings, or attract a bidder, for the share price to recover.

Etam

ETAM has an unerring ability to surprise. In the past few years, its surprises have tended to be pleasant, but yesterday's news was unpalatable. Along with other clothing retailers, it has been badly hit by the warm autumn weather. If consumers managed until December without buying their winter wardrobes, they either bought in the sales or waited until next year. Etam has also had to contend with a refurbishment programme that has closed more than 60 stores at some point during the past year.

But this is only part of the story. Operating profits are expected to fall by a fifth in the year to January 28 — a steep decline that no other clothing retailer has suffered. Given that the group had a good first half, it suggests trading went downhill fast in the latter part of the year. The question is whether the group can get back on track.

With a continuing tough market and Dorothy Perkins, its key competitor, in the ascendant, the situation looks unfavourable. Until evidence of a turnround emerges, the shares are likely to languish.

EDITED BY NEIL BENNETT

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Mar	1008-1007	May	1050-1048
May	1007-1006	Jul	1059-1055
Jul	1018-1016	Sep	1069-1068
Sep	1027-1026	Dec	1082-1080
Dec	1034-1033		
Mar	1042-1040		Volume: 8020

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	2692-2690	Nov	2625-2620
May	2648-2644	Jan	2635-2630
Jul	2620-2615	Mar	2640-2620
Sep	2630-2625		Volume: 4061

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	354.1-53.3
Spot: 400.2		Dec	351.5-49.3
Mar	399.0-98.5	Mar	347.4-43.8
May	393.2-93.0	May	346.9-41.9
Aug	381.0-79.8		Volume: 3792

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on February 2

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	88.38	120.55	122.32
(+/-)	+4.36	-0.36	+3.17
Eng/Wales:	88.60	120.56	121.96
(+/-)	+4.32	-0.36	+3.17
(%)	-7.0	-3.0	+3.0
Scotland:	73.47	120.53	123.86
(+/-)	-3.32	-1.63	+1.65
(%)	+73.0	-1.0	-22.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	17.15	+0.15
Brent 15 day (Mar)	17.20	+0.35
Brent 15 day (Apr)	16.75	+0.05
W Texas Intermediate (Mar)	18.75	+0.20
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	18.45	+0.15

PRODUCTS ($/MT)
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	B: 159 (+1)	O: 162 (+1)
Gasoil EEC	147 (+1)	148 (n/c)
Non EEC 1H Mar	149 (+1)	150 (n/c)
Non EEC 1H Apr	150 (+1)	152 (+2)
3.5 Fuel Oil	98 (+1)	101 (+2)
Naphtha	163 (+1)	165 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)
GAS OIL

Feb	144.75-45.00	May	148.75-49.00
Mar	147.25-47.50	Jun	149.00-49.25
Apr	148.25-48.50		Vol: 18526

BRENT (6.00pm)

Mar	17.18-17.19	Jun	unq
Apr	16.77-16.78	Jul	..
May	unq		Vol: 60762

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Mar	108.40	Mar	102.65
May	110.20	May	104.00
Jul	111.65	Sep	96.75
Sep	98.40	Nov	98.75
Nov	99.40	Jan	100.00
Volume: 515		Volume: 140	

POTATO (£/t)	Open	Close
Apr	339.0	337.3
May	358.0	355.0
Jun	unq	unq
		Volume: 168

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)
Mar 121.75-122.25

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Feb 95	1964	1920	1964
Mar 95	1985	1920	1985
Apr 95	1965	1920	1965
Jul 95	1750	1710	1738
Vol: 323 lots		Open Interest: 3214	

Index 1959 -2

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2919.5-2920.0	2915.0-2916.0	2081225
Lead ($/tonne)	625.00-626.00	644.00-645.00	301325
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1121.0-1121.5	1147.0-1147.5	455575
Tin ($/tonne)	5755.0-5765.0	5850.0-5855.0	57940
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	2099.5-2100.0	2139.5-2140.0	1239700
Nickel ($/tonne)	9770.0-9780.0	9950.0-9960.0	89808

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
Alld Dom	500	36	43½	53	8½	16½	21
(*520½)	550	10½	18	28½	33½	44	46½
Argyll	260	24½	30	32½	3½	9	11½
(*276½)	280	12	18½	21½	11	18½	21
ASDA	60	9	11	11	0½	1½	2½
(*67½)	70	2½	5	6	4½	5½	7½
Boots	460	26	34½	39½	9	17½	21½
(*470½)	500	8	16	21½	32½	41½	44
Br Airways	360	23½	33	38½	9	18	21½
(*369½)	390	9½	18	24½	25½	34½	37½
BP	420	16½	26½	33	13	19½	22
(*421)	460	4	11	16	41½	45	46½
Br Steel	140	18	21½	24	2	4	5
(*154½)	160	5½	10	13	9½	12½	13½
C & W	390	19	29	37½	13½	21½	26
(*392)	420	7½	15½	24½	31½	38½	43
CU	493	16½	—	—	24½	—	—
(*496½)	543	3½	—	—	63½	—	—
ICI	700	54½	64½	70½	12	19½	25
(*746)	750	22	37	44½	35½	43	48½
Kingfishr	420	23	29	34½	13½	25	29½
(*422½)	460	7½	13	19½	39½	51½	55
Land Sec	550	37½	45½	50	6	16	20
(*575)	600	11	17½	24	28½	44	47
M & S	360	34½	39½	45½	3½	8½	10
(*386½)	390	14½	20	28	13½	20	22
Nat West	460	40½	49	54½	10½	14½	21½
(*496)	500	16	27½	33½	29½	33½	41
Sainsbury	420	25	31½	39	8	17	19½
(*430½)	460	7	12	20½	31½	39½	41½
Shell	700	24	36½	46½	20	24½	30½
(*709)	750	6	16	24	56	58	61½
Smkl Bch	460	30½	39½	49½	10½	16½	22
(*478)	500	11	21	30½	31½	37½	42½
Storehse	220	15½	19	22½	4	8	10
(*226½)	240	6½	9	12½	15	18½	20
Trafalgar	60	7½	9½	11½	2	3½	4
(*64)	70	3	5	7	7½	8½	9½
Unilever	1150	45½	64½	86½	29	41	46
(*1167½)	1200	20	41	61	59	69	73½
Zeneca	900	34	52	68	42	44½	51½
(*901)	950	16½	32	47	75½	77	82

	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
Grnd Met	360	14½	28	31½	1	7	12½
(*372½)	390	1	12½	16	18	22	27
Ladbroke	160	8	13	18	1½	7	10½
(*167)	180	0	5	9½	13½	18½	22½
Utd Bisc	330	8	17½	22	4	16	23½
(*333½)	360	0	6½	11	26½	38	43

February 3, 1995 Tot: 38203 Call: 22086 Put: 16117 FT-SE Call: 8008 Put: 7378

*Underlying security price.

	Series	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
BAA	450	18½	—	—	13	—	—
(*450)	475	8	—	—	30	—	—
Thames W	460	23	31½	36	11	26½	29
(*464)	500	7	14	19	38	52½	54½

	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
BAT Ind	420	29	39	45	0	12½	20
(*447½)	460	4	15	24	14	33½	40½
BTR	300	7½	13½	21½	3	12½	16
(*304)	330	0	3½	10	26	34½	36
Br Aero	448	35	46	—	1½	12	—
(*481½)	487	7½	23½	—	9	29	—
Br Telcm	390	13	26	33½	1½	8	15
(*401)	420	0½	11	18	19	27½	31
Cadbury	420	16	21	33	6½	15	19
(*435)	460	0½	5½	15½	41	42½	44
Guinness	420	12½	22½	30½	2½	14½	18½
(*428)	460	0½	7½	13½	32	41	43½
GEC	280	10½	21	26	1	5½	11
(*289½)	300	0½	10	15½	11	15	21½
Hanson	220	16	19½	22½	0½	4½	7
(*235½)	240	2	8	12	6½	12½	16½
LASMO	140	12½	16½	20½	0½	4	5½
(*151)	160	2	7	10	9½	13½	15
Lucas	180	7	14	19½	2	8	11
(*184½)	200	0½	5½	11	15½	20	22½
Pilkingtn	140	9½	15½	18½	1	4	6½
(*148)	160	1	6	9½	12½	14½	17
Prudential	300	7	14	21½	4	15½	18½
(*302½)	330	0	5	10½	27½	37½	39½
Redland	420	13	24	30½	4	23	27
(*428½)	460	1	7½	14½	31½	51½	54
R-Royce	140	20	22½	25	0	2	4
(*159½)	160	3	9½	14	3½	10	12½
Tesco	240	14	21	34½	0½	6½	9
(*253)	260	2	9	14	8½	16	19
Vodafone	183	7	—	—	3	—	—
(*186½)	200	1	7	11	14	17	20
Williams	330	7	17	23	4	14½	18½
(*333)	360	0½	5½	11	27	35½	38½

FT-SE INDEX (*3057½)

	2950	3000	3050	3100	3150	3200
Calls						
Feb	122	79	42	17½	5½	1½
Mar	135½	98	66	41	23	12
Apr	155	121½	92	67	46	32½
May	172	141½	112½	89	67½	51
Jun	—	156½	—	102½	—	63
Puts						
Feb	5½	12½	27½	56	99	149
Mar	24	36½	55	81	113	154
Apr	45½	62½	82	108	138	173½
May	56½	75½	96	122	151	185
Jun	—	86	—	133	—	193

	Series	Calls Mar	Calls Jun	Calls Sep	Puts Mar	Puts Jun	Puts Sep
Abby Nat	420	19	26	31½	12	19	23½
(*430½)	460	4	10½	15½	42	45	48½
Amstrad	125	9½	14	—	2	5	—
(*132½)	150	0½	4½	—	18½	20½	—
Barclays	550	47	55	64½	6	14½	22
(*591)	600	14½	28	38½	28½	37½	46
Blue Circ	260	21½	28	34½	4	11	15
(*276½)	280	9½	17	24½	10½	21	25
Br Gas	300	14½	21½	26½	5	12	16
(*308½)	330	2½	7½	13	22½	31	33½
Dixons	200	14	20½	25	4	8	11½
(*209)	220	4½	10½	15½	14½	19	23½
Forte	220	21½	26½	30	1	6	8½
(*238½)	240	8	14½	19	7½	15	17½
Hillsdwn	160	17	19½	21½	0½	5	7½
(*175)	180	4	7½	11	7½	15½	18
Lonrho	140	13½	18½	21	2	5	7½
(*151½)	160	2½	8	11	11½	14½	17½
Sears	100	5½	8½	9½	2½	5½	6
(*102)	110	1½	4	5	9	11½	12½
Thrn Emi	1000	62½	90½	100½	5½	16½	31½
(*1049½)	1050	28	58½	69	21½	34½	53
Tomkins	220	18½	26½	30	1½	5½	10
(*235½)	240	6	14½	19	9	14	19
TSB	240	16	24½	28½	7½	12½	17
(*251)	260	7½	15½	19½	19½	24	28
Wellcome	950	83½	90	109	15	26	31
(*1017)	1000	48½	59	78½	32	43	50½

	Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Glaxo	650	34½	56	65½	23½	33	46
(*665½)	700	14	33	42½	53½	61	74
HSBC	650	30	42½	55	36½	48	57
(*652)	700	11½	24	35½	72	81	88½
Reuter	420	44	56	64	6½	12	14½
(*457½)	460	18	33	41½	22	28½	31

	Series	Feb	May	Jul	Feb	May	Jul
Royal Ins	260	16½	23	28½	1	10½	13½
(*274½)	280	4	13½	18½	9	21	23½

	Series	Mar	Jun	Sep	Mar	Jun	Sep
Fisons	100	11	15½	20½	2	7	8
(*108)	110	5½	11	16	6	12	13½

	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
Eastern Gp	650	40½	66	77½	1	15½	28½
(*687½)	700	9	37½	50	18½	36½	52½

	Series	Mar	Jun	Sep	Mar	Jun	Sep
Natl Pwr	460	25	38	45½	7	19	23½
(*475)	500	6	18½	26½	28½	40½	45
Scot Pwr	300	28	38	42½	2	7	11½
(*324)	330	8½	20	25	12½	18	25

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100 Previous open interest: 65803	Mar 95	3050.0	3078.0	3034.0	3064.0	15526
	Jun 95	3060.0	3080.0	3044.0	3073.5	260
FT-SE 250 Previous open interest: 4044	Mar 95	3395.0	3395.0	3395.0	3405.0	20
	Jun 95					0
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 438518	Mar 95	92.97	92.99	92.93	92.94	29721
	Jun 95	92.33	92.37	92.25	92.26	45115
	Sep 95	91.91	91.93	91.82	91.83	12793
Three Mth Eurodollar Previous open interest: 2349	Mar 95				93.54	0
	Jun 95	92.76	92.76	92.76	93.00	12
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: 741847	Mar 95	94.80	94.80	94.76	94.79	18056
	Jun 95	94.40	94.42	94.35	94.39	49689
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 98495	Mar 95	102-04	103-08	101-18	101-24	86804
	Jun 95	102-11	102-11	101-30	101-31	260
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 95	108.29	108.43	108.26	108.39	2512
	Jun 95	107.53	107.64	107.51	107.63	438
German Gov Bd Bund Previous open interest: 214245	Mar 95	90.28	90.60	90.15	90.55	143846
	Jun 95	89.76	89.94	89.60	89.99	1559
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 23378	Mar 95	93.63	93.67	93.57	93.64	1591
	Jun 95	93.13	93.14	93.06	93.12	1002
Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: 44972	Mar 95	95.87	95.90	95.82	95.89	2422
	Jun 95	95.55	95.58	95.50	95.55	1469
Italian Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 55520	Mar 95	99.71	100.23	99.65	100.11	29941
	Jun 95				99.14	0

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6¼ Finance Hse 7
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 4½ Low 3½ Week fixed: 5⅛
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6⅛ ; 3 mth 6¼ . Sell: 2 mth 6⅛ ; 3 mth: 6⅛ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6½-6⅜	6¾-6½	6⅞-6⅝	7-6¾	
Sterling Money Rates:	6⅝-6½	6⅞-6⅝	6⅞-6⅞	7¼-7	7⅝-7⅜
Interbank:	6⅝-6½	6⅞-6⅝	6⅞-6⅝	7¼-7	7⅝-7⅜

Overnight: open 5 , close 4 .

Local Authority Deps:	6½	n/a	6⅞	7	7⅝
Sterling CDs:	6⅜-6½	6⅞-6⅝	6⅞-6½	7⅛-6⅞	7½-7⅜
Dollar CDs:	6.05-6.03	n/a	6.18-6.15	6.53-6.51	7.04-7.01
Building Society CDs:	6⅜-6½	6⅞-6½	6⅞-6⅞	7¼-7	7⅝-7⅜

TREASURY BILLS: Applcs: £2,624m allotted: £500m; Bids: £98.465% received: 100%; Last week: £98.47% received: 31%; Avge rate: £6.1694% last wk £6.1071%; Next week: £500m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅞-5¾	6⅛-5⅞	6¼-6	6½-6¼	5½-4½
Deutschemark:	5-4⅞	5-4⅞	5⅛-4⅞	5⅜-5⅛	5⅛-4¼
French Franc:	5½-5¼	5½-5¼	5½-5⅜	6⅛-6	6-5
Swiss Franc:	3⅝-3½	3⅞-3½	3⅞-3⅝	4¼-4⅛	4½-3½
Yen:	2¼-2	2⅛-2⅛	2¼-2⅛	2⅜-2¼	2½-1½

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $376.10-376.50 Close: $375.90-376.40 High: $376.20-376.70
Low: $375.10-375.60 AM: $376.35 PM: $375.65

Krugerrand: $375.75-377.75 (£240.25-242.25)

Platinum: $414.00 (£263.10) Silver: $4.69 (£2.995) Palladium: $157.00 (£99.80)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Feb 3	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.6728-2.6858	2.6728-2.6762	⅛-⅛pr	1⅛-⅞pr
Brussels	49.03-49.37	49.07-49.17	7-2pr	20-13pr
Copenhagen	9.3990-9.4530	9.3990-9.4140	⅛-⅛pr	2½-1½pr
Dublin	1.0090-1.0125	1.0092-1.0119	8-5pr	17-12pr
Frankfurt	2.3838-2.3964	2.3838-2.3870	⅛-⅛pr	1-⅛pr
Lisbon	246.08-247.92	246.37-247.01	47-56ds	162-209ds
Madrid	207.21-208.50	207.34-207.64	25-36ds	100-122ds
Milan	2519.50-2535.60	2519.50-2522.80	2-5ds	12-15ds
Montreal	2.1924-2.2178	2.1924-2.1955	0.18-0.30ds	0.42-0.57ds
New York	1.5638-1.5776	1.5638-1.5648	0.06-0.04pr	0.17-0.13pr
Oslo	10.4390-10.4990	10.4390-10.4550	1½-⅛pr	3⅛-2⅛pr
Paris	8.2690-8.3150	8.2690-8.2830	⅛-⅛pr	2½-1⅛pr
Stockholm	11.6810-11.7730	11.6810-11.7050	⅛-1⅛ds	3⅛-4⅛ds
Tokyo	155.57-157.21	155.86-156.13	⅛-⅛pr	1⅛-1⅛pr
Vienna	16.73-16.87	16.73-16.76	2½-1½pr	7½-5⅛pr
Zurich	2.0166-2.0266	2.0176-2.0205	⅛-⅛pr	1½-1⅛pr

Source: Extel Premium - pr. Discount - ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3281-1.3290
Austria	10.69-10.70
Belgium (Com)	31.35-31.36
Canada	1.4015-1.4020
Denmark	6.0090-6.0120
France	5.2855-5.2905
Germany	1.5235-1.5240
Hong Kong	7.7320-7.7330
Ireland	1.5489-1.5504
Italy	1610.50-1611.50
Japan	99.55-99.65
Malaysia	2.5527-2.5537
Netherlands	1.7064-1.7069
Norway	6.6725-6.6745
Portugal	157.50-157.60
Singapore	1.4580-1.4590
Spain	132.37-132.42
Sweden	7.4650-7.4750
Switzerland	1.2885-1.2895

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5685-1.5711
Australia dollar	2.0788-2.0815
Bahrain dinar	0.590-0.602
Brazil real*	1.3191-1.3231
Cyprus pound	0.735-0.745
Finland markka	7.3875-7.5035
Greece drachma	371.0-378.0
Hong Kong dollar	12.1013-12.1106
India rupee	49.15-50.11
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4675-0.4775
Malaysia ringgit	3.9934-3.9967
Mexico peso	n/a
New Zealand dollar	2.4557-2.4607
Pakistan rupee	48.20 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.8675-5.9935
Singapore dollar	2.2775-2.2798
S Africa rand (fin)	6.3382-6.3737
S Africa rand (com)	5.551-5.557
U A E dirham	5.745-5.869

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FT-SE VOLUMES

3i	774	Legal & Gn	1,600
ASDA Gp	2,000	Lloyds Bk	2,000
Abbey Natl	1,700	MEPC	1,700
Alld Dom	937	Marks Spr	5,100
Argyll Gp	5,800	NatWst Bk	2,500
Arjo Wiggn	1,600	Nat Power	1,200
AB Foods	528	Nth Wst W	658
BAA	3,400	P & O	479
BAT Inds	3,900	Pearson	1,600
BOC	971	PowerGen	2,400
BP	7,000	Prudential	1,900
BTR	6,900	RMC	870
BT	6,700	RTZ	1,900
Bk of Scot	3,300	Rank Org	2,200
Barclays	4,100	Reckitt Col	4,000
Bass	3,400	Redland	1,300
Blue Circle	2,600	Reed Intl	2,200
Boots	2,500	Rentokil	1,700
Bowater	2,500	Reuters	6,100
Brit Aero	4,800	Rolls Royce	11,000
Brit Airwys	4,000	Ryl Ins	3,400
Brit Gas	3,600	Ryl Bk Scot	1,500
Brit Steel	9,200	Sainsbury	1,500
Burmah Cast	1,300	Schroders	17
Cable Wire	17,000	Scot & New	680
Cadbury	3,400	Scot Power	1,500
Caradon	1,300	Sears	2,900
Carlton Cms	1,300	Svrn Trent	896
Cm Union	1,900	Shell Trans	8,400
Courtaulds	4,400	Siebe	2,400
De La Rue	1,400	SmKl Bch	5,800
Eastern Elec	1,700	Smith Nph	7,600
Enterpr Oil	1,600	Southern Elec	510
Forte	6,700	Std Chartd	5,200
GKN	2,700	Sun Allnce	878
GRE	3,200	TI Gp	684
GUS	1,900	TSB	4,900
Gen Acc	618	Tesco	2,400
Gen Elec	8,200	Thames W	700
Glaxo	15,000	Thrn EMI	1,000
Granada	8,000	Tomkins	3,800
Grand Met	4,600	Unilever	1,300
Guinness	8,100	Utd Bisc	4,000
HSBC	7,400	Vodafone	13,000
Hanson	8,900	Warburg (SG)	655
ICI	2,600	Wellcome	5,400
Inchcape	7,700	Whitbread	250
Kingfisher	2,600	Wllms Hld	552
Ladbroke	5,400	Wolseley	920
Land Secs	2,200	Zeneca	3,600

WALL STREET

	Feb 3 midday	Feb 2 close
AMP Inc	71	70¾
AMR Corp	57¼	56½
AT & T	50½	50¾
Abbott Labs	34¼	34¼
Advanced Micro	31½	31
Aetna Life	50	49¾
Ahmanson (HF)	17¼	17
Air Prod & Chem	44¼	44½
Albertson's	30½	30
Alcan Alumnm	25½	25½
Alco Standard	65½	65½
Allied Signal	36½	35½
Alum Co of Am	82½	80½
Amax Gold Inc	4¼	4¼
Amerada Hess	46½	45½
Amer Brands	37½	37¼
Amer El Power	35½	35
Amer Express	32½	31¼
Amer Genl Corp	30½	29½
Amer Home Pr	70¼	69½
Amer Intl	104	102½
Amer Stores	23½	24
Ameritech	43	43¼
Amoco	57½	57
Anheuser-Busch	54½	54¼
Apple Computer	41½	41½
Archer Daniels	20½	20¼
Armco	6¼	6¼
Armstrng Wrld	45¼	45
Asarco	27¼	26½
Ashland Oil	32¼	32¼
Atl Richfield	106½	107½
Auto Data Pro	60¼	59¾
Avery Dennison	36¼	36½
Avon Products	57	57¼
Baker Hughes	17¼	17¼
Baltim Gas & El	24½	24¼
Banc One	30	29½
BankAmerica	45½	44¼
Bank of NY	32	30¼
Bankers Tr NY	64	62¼
Barnett Banks	44½	43¼
Bausch & Lomb	32	31
Baxter Intl	29¼	29¼
Bectn Dicknsn	52½	52¼
Bell Atlantic	53½	53½
BellSouth	58¼	58½
Black & Decker	23½	24½
Block (H&R)	36½	36
Boeing	48½	46¼
Boise Cascade	27½	27¼
Borden Inc	13½	13½
Bristol Myrs Sq	61½	61½
Browning Ferris	32¼	32½
Brunswick	20¼	20½
Burlington Nthn	49¼	48½
CBS	59½	59½
CNA Financial	68½	68¼
CPC Intl	54¼	53½
CSX	73½	73
Campbell Soup	43¼	43¼
Can Pacific	14½	14
Cptl Cities ABC	86½	84½
Carolina Pwr	28½	28½
Caterpillar	54	52½
Central & SW	24½	24½
Champion Intl	40½	40½
Chase Manhat	33½	33
Chemical Bk	39½	38¼
Chevron Corp	45½	45½
Chrysler	45	45½
Chubb Corp	80	79½
Cigna Corp	68¼	68
Citicorp	42½	41
Clorox	58	58
Coastal Corp	27½	27½
Coca Cola	52½	52½
Colgate-Palmolive	63	62½
Columbia Gas	25½	25½
Compaq Comp	36½	36
Comp Ass Intl	52½	51½
Conagra	30¼	30½
Conrail	54	53½
Cons Edison	28½	28¼
Cons Nat Gas	35	34½
Cooper Inds	38½	38½
Corning Inc	31½	31½
Crown Cork	41½	41½
Dana Corp	22½	22½
Dayton Hudson	73¼	72½
Deere	73½	74
Delta Air Lines	53½	52½
Deluxe Corp	26½	26¼
Detroit Edison	28½	28
Digital Equip	35½	35½
Dillard Dept St	27½	27¼
Disney (Walt)	52½	50½
Dominion Res	38½	38
Donelley (RR)	30½	30½
Dover Corp	57½	56½
Dow Chemical	63½	62½
Dow Jones	33½	34
Dresser	20½	20¼
Duke Power	40½	40½
Dun & Brdstreet	49½	49½
Du Pont	53¼	53½
Eastman Kodak	49½	48½
Eaton Corp	46½	46½
Emerson Elec	63½	63½
Engelhard Corp	25½	25¼

	Feb 3 midday	Feb 2 close
Enron Corp	30	29¼
Entergy	24¼	23¼
Ethyl Corp	10½	10½
Exxon	62½	61½
FMC Corp	57½	57½
FPL Group	36½	35½
Federal Express	62½	62½
Fed Nat Mtge	75½	73¼
First Chicago	48¼	47½
First Interstate	78	75½
First Union Rlty	8½	8½
Fleet Finl Grp	32½	32
Fluor Corp	47¼	45¼
Ford Motor	25¼	25¼
GTE Corp	33½	33½
Gannett	50½	50½
Gap Inc Del	33½	33½
Gen Dynamics	43	42¼
Gen Electric	51½	51½
Gen Mills	58½	57¼
Gen Motors	39	39½
Gen Reinsurance	130½	127¼
Gen Signal	34¼	33½
Genuine Parts	36½	36½
Georgia Pac	75	74½
Gillette	76¼	76½
Glaxo ADR	20½	20½
Goodrich (BF)	43½	43½
Goodyear Tire	37½	36½
Grace (W&R)	41½	40½
Grt Atl Pac Tea	18½	18½
Great Wstn Fin	18½	17¼
Halliburton	35½	35
Harcourt General	33½	33
Heinz (HJ)	40½	39½
Hercules	43½	42½
Hershey Foods	49½	48½
Hewlett Packard	102½	101½
Hilton Hotels	67¼	67¼
Home Depot	48½	49
Homestake Mng	15½	15½
Honeywell	34½	34½
Household Intl	41½	40
Houston Inds	41	40½
Humana	25½	24½
ITT Corp	94½	92½
Illinois Tool	42½	41½
Illinova	23½	22½
INCO	27½	27½
Ingersoll Rand	31½	31½
Inland Steel	28½	27½
Intel Corp	73½	72½
IBM	75	74½
Intl Flav & Fr	48½	48¼
Intl Paper	73½	73¼
James River Va	22½	22½
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	57½	56½
Kellogg	54¼	54¼
Kerr-McGee	47¼	47¼
Kimberly-Clark	50½	49½
Kmart	13½	13½
Knight-Ridder	51½	51½
Lilly (Eli)	66¼	65½
Limited Inc	16¼	16¼
LIN Brdcstng	139½	139
Lincoln Nat	36½	35¼
Litton	37	36½
Liz Claiborne	17	17
Lockheed	71½	71½
Louisiana Pac	27¼	27¼
MCI Comm	19½	19½
Marriott Int	31½	30¼
Marsh & McLnn	81½	80½
Masco Corp	24½	23½
May Dept St	35½	35½
Maytag Corp	15	15½
McDonalds	32½	33
McDonnell D	54½	53½
McGraw Hill	64¼	64½
Mead Corp	51½	52½
Medtronic	58½	58¼
Mellon Bk	36½	35½
Melville Corp	31½	30½
Merck Inc	39½	39½
Merrill Lynch	39½	38¼
Minnesota Mine	51½	51½
Mobil Corp	87½	87½
Monsanto	74½	72½
Morgan (JP)	63½	62¼
Motorola Inc	61½	61
Natl Medical	15½	15½
Natl Semi	19½	18½
Natl Service Ind	26½	26½
Navistar Int	15½	15½
NBD Bancorp	31	30
NY Times A	21½	21½
Newmont Mng	34½	35
Niag Mohawk	15	14½
Nike B	70½	69½
NL Industries	11½	11½
Noram Energy	5½	5½
Nordstrom	41½	41½
Norfolk Sthrn	62½	62½
Nthn State Pwr	46½	46½
Norwest Corp	24½	23½
Nynex Corp	38½	38½
Occidental Pet	18½	18½
Ohio Edison	21½	20½
Oracle Systems	43½	42½
Oryx Energy Co	10½	10

	Feb 3 midday	Feb 2 close
Owens Corning	31½	30½
PPG Industries	36½	36
PNC Bank	24½	24
Paccar Inc	42	42
Pacificorp	19½	19½
Pac Enterprises	22½	22½
Pac Gas & Elect	25½	25
Pac Telesis	30½	30½
Pall Corp	18½	18½
Panhandle East	21½	21½
Parker Hannifin	45½	45½
Peco Energy	27¼	26½
Penney (JC)	43½	42½
Pennzoil	44½	44¼
Pepsico	38½	38
Pfizer	82½	80½
Phelps Dodge	53½	54½
Philip Morris	60¼	60½
Phillips Pet	31½	31½
Pitney Bowes	33½	31½
Polaroid	31½	31
PriceCostco	13 11/16	13 11/16
Procter & Gmbl	65	64½
Providian	36½	35½
Pub Serv E & G	29½	28½
Quaker Oats	34½	34
Ralston Purina	47	46½
Raychem Corp	38	38½
Raytheon	67½	67
Reebok Intl	35½	35
Reynolds Metals	52½	52
Roadway Srvcs	49½	48½
Rockwell Intl	38	38
Rohm & Haas	54½	53½
Royal Dutch	111½	112
Rubbermaid	31½	31½
Safeco Corp	53½	52½
St Paul's Cos	48½	47½
Salomon Inc	39½	37½
Santa Fe Pac	18½	18¼
Sara Lee Corp	26½	25½
Seecorp	16½	16½
Schering Plough	78½	77½
Schlumberger	53½	53
Scott Paper	74½	73½
Seagram	29½	29½
Sears Roebuck	47½	46½
Shell Trans	66½	67
Sherwin Wllms	34½	34½
Skyline Corp	17½	17½
Snap-On-Tools	33½	33
Southern Co	21½	20½
Sthwestern Bell	42½	42
Sprint Corp	29½	29½
Stanley Works	38½	38½
Sun Company	29½	29½
Sun Microsys	33½	33½
Suntrust	53½	52½
Supervalu	23½	23½
Sysco Corp	27½	27
TRW Inc	67½	65½
TCC Inds	2½	2½
Tandem Comp	18½	17½
Tandy Corp	46½	46½
Teledyne	22½	22½
Temple Inland	47½	47
Tenneco	43½	43½
Texaco	61½	60½
Texas Inst	73	71½
Texas Utilities	34½	34½
Textron	52½	52½
Time Warner	38	37
Times-Mirror A	18½	20½
Timken	34½	33½
Torchmark	40½	41½
Toys R Us	30½	29½
Transamerica	52½	51½
Travelers	38½	37½
Tribune	52½	51½
Tyco Labs	48	47½
UST Inc	30½	30½
UAL	92½	91½
USX Marathon	15½	15½
Unicom	26	25½
Unilever NV	117	117½
Union Camp	48½	48½
Union Carbide	27½	27
Union Pacific	50½	49½
Unisys Corp	9½	9½
USAIR Group	5½	5½
USF&G Corp	14½	14½
US Life	36½	35½
US West	38½	38½
United Tech	64½	64½
Unocal Corp	26½	26
Upjohn	34½	34½
VF Corp	48½	48½
WMX Tech	29½	29½
Wal-Mart Stores	23½	23½
Warner-Lambert	77	77
Wells Fargo	153	150½
Westinghouse El	14	14
Weyerhaeuser	39½	39½
Whirlpool	51½	50½
Whitman	16½	16½
Winn Dixie	53½	53½
Woolworth	16½	15½
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	46½	45½
Xerox	109½	109½
Yellow Corp	21½	21

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TAX ADVICE 27

How the taxman helps with the problem

WEEKEND MONEY

WIDOW'S WAIT 29

Delays put a policy claim on hold

As base rates head up again, **Liz Dolan** and **Sara McConnell** find the experts divided on what the best deals might be

Getting a fix on the right home loan

Hard-pressed homebuyers, many already facing mortgage rate rises this week, were forced to get out their well-thumbed crystal balls again on Thursday as base rates increased yet again. Should they fix at current rates, or ride the roller coaster for the next year or two in the hope of better news in the run-up to the next election? If they do fix, for how long should they lock themselves in? If they do not, should they consider discounts instead?

Experts who earn their living by second-guessing the market cannot agree. So, for borrowers who are more at home fixing gall bladders or plumbing systems than mortgage rates, the answer is to consider all available evidence and then follow their instincts.

Trevor Williams, a Lloyds Bank economist, suggests sticking with the variable rate until the mist clears. Simon Tyler, of Chase de Vere Home Loans, the mortgage broker, advises locking into the best fix available as soon as possible. "If you see a five-year fix below 9 per cent, take it."

Mr Williams says: "The prospect is of lower rates by the end of 1996. Given that, don't fix for the next year at least." Lloyds expects base rates, currently 6.75 per cent, to have peaked at 7.5 per cent by the end of this year. They are then likely to stabilise until the fourth quarter of 1996, and will start to fall some time before the November Budget, Mr Williams says.

On that advice, discounted variable rates are an attractive opton for eligible borrowers. But, Mr Tyler says: "Discounts aren't much good if base rates go up as fast as people are saying. One lot of economists expects them to peak at 9 per cent early next year."

Lenders, including the market leaders, Abbey National and the Halifax, have moved quickly to counter fears of further mortgage pain. Abbey said yesterday: "We see little case for changing mortgage rates in response to the latest increase in bank base rates and would be surprised if any of the major lenders drew a different conclusion." The Halifax made similar noises. But they could be forced to eat their words almost immediately, Mr Tyler says. "It's definitely a case of waiting to see who jumps first. I wouldn't be at all surprised if it happens within the next ten days."

Mr Tyler expects rates to rise to 8.99 per cent, within a whisker of the psychological 9 per cent barrier. The latest mortgage rate rise did not fully reflect the previous 0.5 per cent base rate rise, and savers will start to get restless if their rates continue to lag behind.

Most people with standard variable rate mortgages will now be paying about 8.35 per cent for their loan, up from 8.1 per cent before Christmas. This has added £7 a month to the cost of a standard £50,000 repayment loan and £9 a month to an endowment, according to the Halifax. This time last year, the standard rate was 7.64 per cent.

The Cheltenham & Gloucester, which promised borrowers this week that it would undercut its competitors' variable rate by at least 0.25 per cent this year, does not have to attract new savers as most of its accounts are closed to new business, pending its takeover by Lloyds Bank. It should also have no problem keeping savers' money because anyone who withdraws too much will no longer qualify for a payout.

Lenders have already been getting more business from people interested in remortgaging with a fixed rate, than new borrowers, according to Ian Darby, of John Charcol, the mortgage broker. He says: "The maths comes down in favour of refinancing." Someone remortgaging with a two-year fixed-rate will save, on average, about 2 per cent on the current variable rate, Mr Darby says.

Top fixed-rate offers currently available include the Greenwich Building Society's 7.99 per cent for four years, National Counties' one-year fix at 2.99 per cent, and Northern Rock's 8.74 per cent to April, 2000 (8.99 per cent without the society's own buildings and contents insurance).

Yorkshire Building Society offers first-time buyers a 7 per cent discount on its 8.44 per cent variable rate for six months, and a 3 per cent discount for the rest of the year. Existing borrowers moving home or remortgaging get a 1.9 per cent discount for three years, or 2 per cent if the deposit is more than 25 per cent.

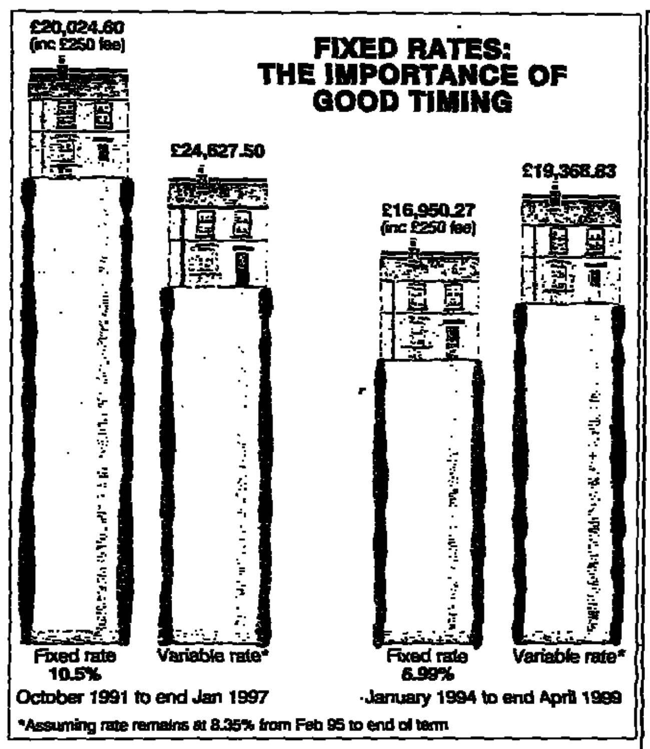
■ Fixing rates can be risky. For example, borrowers with a £50,000 interest-only loan from the Halifax could have fixed their rate at 10.5 per cent for six years in January 1991, when the variable rate was 11.95 per cent. But their timing would have been bad, as variable rates were set to fall well into single figures over the next two years.

Over the term of the loan, they will have spent £24,628, including an initial arrangement fee of £250. Borrowers who stuck with the variable rate, by contrast, will have paid only £20,024.60. (This assumes the variable rate stays constant from now on). But borrowers who took up a five-year, fixed-rate deal of 6.99 per cent in January 1994 will have paid only £16,951 including fees, after five years. Those on the variable rate will have paid £19,369.

If interest rates move against you, or you want to get shot of your fixed rate for other reasons, the penalties for getting out of it are severe, ranging from three months to 12 months' gross interest.

Comment, page 27
Buyers' market, page 32

Shopping around: there is no shortage of fixed-rate and discounted deals among lenders desperately trying to prevent their mortgage business drying up



Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth

Cut rates to be truly credible

INVESTMENT STRATEGY

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Rises in short-term interest rates are depressing for investors in financial assets, whether shares or bonds, since these lose value relative to money. Higher base rates undermine confidence in the housing market. More fundamentally, they make businesses more cautious, less likely to invest in expansion. That, at least, is the traditional reaction in Britain. The long history of stop-go monetary cycles makes people think that rises in interest rates presage a stop. Three rises in five months will fix the financial barometer at "storms ahead" and persuade the prudent to batten the hatches.

The Government's latest monetary policy is, however, meant to change all that. In 12 months' time, investors should have some idea whether it will. To that end, the Bank of England argues, two elements of policy are crucial. First, it must gain credibility in fighting inflation. Second, it must anticipate, responding to forecasts of what will happen to inflation in two years' time, rather than now.

To gain credibility, the Bank is anxious to satisfy the demands of the bond and currency markets. If investors and traders think there ought to be a rate rise, they should have one. Not that the Bank would say that. But a falling pound or gilt-edged prices are deemed signals of "inflationary expectations", which amounts to the same thing.

To pre-empt any acceleration in inflation, the Bank has pushed most of the traditional indicators into the background. Instead, it highlights the rate of growth. If the economy is expanding faster than the Bank reckons it can sustain, then inflation must rise. So it is time for a touch on the brake. This makes judgments hard in what most still reckon to be a recovery phase, when growth is normally faster than average.

How well is the policy working? If tested by credibility on inflation, there is, so far, modest cause for satisfaction. Short-term interest rates are usually reckoned the biggest influence on long-term rates. Yet yields on long-term government bonds have generally fallen since mid-September, from more than 9 per cent to 8.7 per cent. This gentle fall is nothing compared with the rise from 6.7 per cent in the preceding months, when the worldwide bubble in bond prices burst. But it is a start. On the foreign exchanges, sterling has risen 1.8 per cent on the Bank's index since the first rate rise. The big rebound came in September and October and the exchange rate has been sagging a bit since, but so far, so good. For the policy to succeed, however, it needs to gain another kind of credibility. The Bank and the Chancellor need to show share investors, housebuyers and business that they can control inflation without stopping growth; that the Bank, guided by the currency and bond markets, will not just keep demanding higher rates until it induces another, if milder, recession.

At this point in the trial, the jury is suspicious. The FT-SE 100 share index has bounced around in a narrow range of 2,950 to 3,150, falling a net 3.5 per cent. House prices have sagged, business investment is disappointing. No wonder. The Bank fears that the sustainable growth rate is low. Unless investors and business folk gain confidence, this pessimism will be self-fulfilling.

There is only one way to convince investors — to show that base rates can go down as well as up, while the economy is still growing healthily. The Bundesbank has managed it in the past. The Bank has something to prove. Many City economists see rates above 8 per cent this year and still rising. Just before pushing the latest rise, however, the Governor did opine that growth is slowing to a more sustainable pace. Ministers would love a rate cut at Budget time. David Kern, NatWest bank economist, argues that base rates might peak at 7.25 per cent and fall near the end of the year. The exact peak matters less than the symbolic turn. If — but only if — investors and business start believing that monetary policy can sustain growth as well as dishing inflation, share prices could boom.

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In the wake of the American-led rescue of Mexico, **Robert Miller** examines investment approaches to the region

Down Latin America way

Until the crisis, Mexico was a popular first stop for investors

The $50 billion Mexican rescue package brokered by President Clinton and backed by the International Monetary Fund this week brought relief to thousands of investors who have their money in Latin American funds.

Although the Mexican stock market staged a tentative rally immediately after the announcement, it is still down by about 22 per cent in dollar terms since the start of the year.

But, as Emily McLaughlin, a director of Foreign & Colonial Emerging Market's Latin American desk, explains, investors in the region should be prepared to take a sanguine, and possibly even a bullish, investment approach to Latin America. If you are already invested there, stick with it.

For new investors, she says: "You don't want to be too clever over the precise timing of your investment. For example, if you missed the best three weeks between 1989 and 1994, your return would now be 8 per cent instead of 12 per cent. That is a fall of 37 per cent.

"I suggest that you start to invest in Latin America through a diversified fund by means of a regular low-cost monthly savings scheme or a one-off lump sum either in a UK or Luxembourg-registered fund or company."

Until the economic crisis and the devaluation of the peso, Mexico was a popular first port of call for American fund managers and investors who only began to invest outside the United States in the past couple of years. This has helped to drive the market to new heights.

Ms McLaughlin adds: "Mexico was the first stop for many US investors who felt they knew it better because of its proximity. Only afterwards, did they start to venture further south. We still believe that the Peruvian and Brazilian markets represent exceedingly good value. Our view is that Peru's border dispute with Ecuador is not going to escalate into full-blown hostilities for any length of time."

She adds: "Chile and Colombia are also outstanding value. We are negative about Venezuela and Mexico and although Argentina is very, very cheap, the market is not likely to rally in the near term because of May's presidential elections."

The Latin American economies of today are very different from those as recently as the late 1980s.

Trade has been liberalised, former dictatorships have moved along the road to democratic reforms and inflation, once measured in thousands of per cent in many countries, is now in the low, single figures.

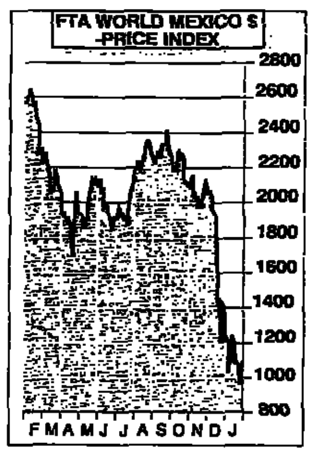
Stock exchanges have been opened up to foreign investors and the market capitalisation of the major markets has grown from US$60 billion to more than $500 billion in the past six years. In overall portfolio-weighting terms, Ms McLaughlin suggests that up to 40 per cent of your money should be invested in global emerging markets.

Within that figure, between 40 and 45 per cent should be earmarked for Latin American markets.

At these levels she says: "You are going for reduced risk and increased returns. If you go over the upper limit, you may be increasing the chances of a higher return but the risks will also rise accordingly."

Ms McLaughlin's point that putting at least some of your money into Latin America is a wise investment decision was underlined at a conference on the region held in London this week.

Carolyn Dakers, senior Latin American fund manager at Thornton, the investment group, told delegates, who included representatives and advisers to the Mexican and Argentine finance ministries: "Many of the economies in the region continue to offer excellent longer-term investment prospects. We believe the real risk for investors is *not* having an exposure to Latin American stock markets."



TRUST WATCH

HEADING the parade of this week's launches is Jupiter Tyndall's Investment Trust of Investment Trusts, which will close its offer on Valentine's Day. It is the first Jupiter Tyndall trust to be offered directly to private investors (Robert Miller writes).

The newcomer, which has already raised £25 million from the City, is a capital growth trust with an estimated starting yield of 2.25 per cent. The portfolio will be managed by Martin Hamilton-Sharp. His strategy will be to identify the countries in which he wants to invest and then select the individual trusts. The portfolio is expected to invest in up to 50 investment trusts. The minimum investment is £250 and dealings in the shares and warrants will start separately on February 22. Jupiter Tyndall is also offering free warrants in the ratio of one for every five shares subscribed for. Unusually, each warrant will offer an income in the form of a 4.4p net dividend.

Another launch is the Hambros Commodities Fund. This will be an open-ended investment company based in Dublin and listed on the Irish Stock Exchange. The fund will invest in listed companies that trade in commodities, or other real assets. The minimum investment is £1,000; or $1,500, and the charges are 5 per cent initially and 1.75 per cent annually, based on the value of the fund. The launch price of the shares will be $1.

The commodities market is subject to violent fluctuations. And this is especially true of the futures market. The rewards can be handsome, but the losses can be very painful.

Clerical Medical's new Extra Income unit trust, which is one of the first to take advantage of the new corporate bond Pep rules coming into force some time after the new tax year on April 6, has pulled in nearly £1 million so far. The estimated yield after April will be raised from its current 6 per cent to 8 per cent. The minimum investment is £1,000.

Details: Jupiter Tyndall: 0506 430308; Hambros: 0171-480 5000; Clerical Medical: 0800 373369.

Correction

Quoting performance figures from HSW on January 28, we gave £2,223 as the current value for a £1,000 lump sum invested in the FT-SE all-share index between December 31, 1989, and December 31, 1994. The figure should have been £1,502.06.

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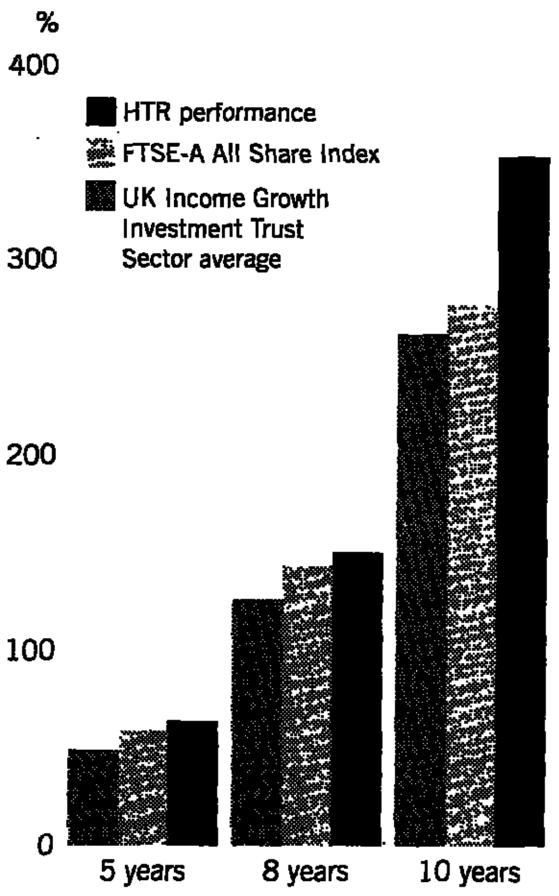

The chart shows the average performance of the two UK Income Growth Investment Trusts managed by Henderson Touche Remnant – TR City of London Trust PLC and Lowland Investment Company plc – compared with their investment trust sector average and with the FTSE-A All Share Index, over 5, 8 and 10 years.

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Chart source: performance figures are compiled by AITC Services Ltd to 30.11.94 showing NAV total return with net income reinvested. Past performance is no guide to the future. The value of investments and the income from them can go down as well as up and investors may not get back the amount invested. Taxes related to PEPs may change if the law changes and the value of tax relief will depend upon the circumstances of the investor.

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Messages that massage the image

COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH

Personal Finance Editor

Pony-tailed types from Soho advertising agencies work into the wee small hours finding ways to portray financial institutions as open, caring and committed to service.

The reality, however, is often at variance with the messages from poster sites and 20-second slots in the *News at Ten* break. Far too frequently, the public fails to receive the service it deserves, or to see fulfilled the promises implicit in the products the campaigns promote.

The result is a general disaffection with insurance companies, banks and building societies that these businesses seek to remedy, not by treating their customers better, but by stepping up the advertising spend.

This week, we report on Josephine Barrons, left a widow in January 1994, with two young daughters. Fortunately, or so she thought, she had an endowment mortgage that guarantees to repay the loan on the death of one partner.

You and I would presume that, within two or three weeks, the insurance company would have arranged with the lender to pay off her loan. But between them, Abbey National and Friends Provident, the insurer, prevaricated for ten distressing months. In the meantime, interest continued to be charged on the loan. The matter was not properly resolved until Weekend Money contacted the companies. The case exposes not only yet another flaw in the now much-devalued endowment mortgage. It might also make you think twice about acquiring the Abbey habit.

Another group of widows, the 5,000 holders of accounts with the Cheltenham & Gloucester, also felt rebuffed by the institution in which they had placed their trust. Deprived (by a quirk of the Building Societies Act) of their bonus from the Lloyds takeover, they looked to the C&G for help. None was, at first, forthcoming. But after *The Times* followed by other papers called attention to this injustice done to a vulnerable group, the society stopped hiding behind the legislation.

This week, it made a £10 million offer to the widows, provided that a change could be hurried on to the statute books. Unfortunately, the Bill that sought to amend the offending clause was yesterday shouted down, proving that MPs can be as unthinking and intransigent as any financial institution.

The widows' last faint hope is the commitment of Treasury ministers and their Labour shadows to right this legal wrong. But the gesture may mark the beginning of a less arrogant attitude at the C&G.

I am now determined to believe that the C&G is keeping its variable mortgage rate a half a per cent below its rivals' average, out of concern for its borrowers, not solely to ensure their assent to the Lloyds deal.

The Halifax has also, at last, realised that the interests of investors may be more important than saving costs, especially when the economies produced can only be small scale. The society has abolished its mean-minded policy of making charges on accounts of less than £50, a subject that raised the ire of readers of *The Times*, some with thousands to invest.

The move is all the more remarkable because those with less than £100 in their accounts do not qualify to vote in the merger ballot.

Number is up for the taxman

Liz Dolan on the implications of the Revenue's new leaner look

THE IMAGE BANK

As Revenue job cuts start to bite, taxpayers may find inspectors a little thinner on the ground

In a week when millions of tax code notices arrived on doormats across the nation, Civil Service unions predicted diminishing levels of service at local tax offices as 12,500 Inland Revenue job cuts, planned over the next seven years, begin to take effect.

Bob Hawkes, assistant secretary, Inland Revenue Staff Federation (IRSF) says one in every six or seven local offices will close during the next three years. Some will be due to the integration of tax collection and assessment offices, but the effect will be the gradual removal of accessibility for taxpayers, especially in remote areas. "There is not enough local access already, and the problem will escalate when self-assessment starts," Mr Hawkes says.

Over the next two or three years, up to nine million taxpayers will be required to start taking responsibility for the calculation of their tax bills. "The local office will be the first port of call for advice, especially for those who do not have a great deal of money." The Revenue says: "Obviously, people are worried about this. But, where offices close, we will make sure there is somewhere else for them to go. We may visit the local library, or shopping centre, one day a week, for instance."

According to the Revenue, most people choose to do business over the telephone nowadays. But, says Mr Hawkes: "We say that many people still prefer face-to-face contact."

FACE TO FACE

MORAG PRESTON visited two very different London tax offices to discover what kind of service is currently available to taxpayers.

I am a research assistant, with no contract, nor any assurance that I will be needed tomorrow. Despite this, 25 per cent of my weekly pay is deducted for income tax. I wanted to find out whether I should continue to be taxed at source, or become a self-employed person.

Aldgate: This old-fashioned inner-city tax office deals with inquiries over a large counter, behind which stands a very defensive tax officer. Even with her undivided attention, my inquiry — whether my status was that of a freelance or a full-time employee — remained unanswered. I was told: "That is not our business. It is between you and your employer. All we want is to see that you are not paying too much tax." What I needed was a proper code number, she said, and "the sooner the better". The sooner I started to pay tax at the correct rate, the sooner I will save at least £20 a week.

Kensington: The spacious office resembles a prosperous business. A vast selection of informative guides are free for the taking. There are seven computer terminals, each with a helpful tax officer. I talked to both a tax officer and a "status officer" and my questions were answered. Because I work at the same place every day for at least eight hours, the status officer advised me that my chances for being registered as self-employed were minimal. "But you're young, so why not give it a try? She told me to write a simple letter to my district tax office, highlighting a few reasons why I did not consider myself to be an employee. But she also warned me that I would be asked more specific questions. Even if this is just good public relations, it worked, and although my financial situation remains the same, I left with a handful of leaflets and a sense of direction.

RESEARCH — ANALYSIS — MEASUREMENT — UNDERSTANDING

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FINANCIAL TIMES

PERSONAL PENSION PLANS

How pension plans work, and what to look for

The five crucial questions

Personal pensions are designed for employees without access to a company scheme and for the self-employed. You can also use a plan to opt out of the state earnings-related pension scheme (Serps).

If you fall into one of these categories, you are part of the "target market" for life offices and those who sell their products, and are likely to find yourself at the end of a very persuasive sales process.

Since their introduction in July 1988, personal pension plans have been sold to more than 5m people, many of whom would have been better off in their company pension schemes.

With more than 100 providers in the market, clearly some will offer good value, while others will offer an unholy combination of high charges and abysmal performance. To help you through the selection process we set out five basic issues to discuss with your adviser.

■ What are the charges, and are they competitive?

■ Is the contract flexible? Can you reduce and stop contributions, transfer the fund or take early retirement without penalty?

■ Is the performance consistently good over the long term?

■ Is the provider financially sound? Will it still be there when your investment matures?

■ How much does the advice cost? Should I pay this as commission or fees?

FINANCIAL TIMES WEEKEND DECEMBER 31/JANUARY 1 1995

THE FIVE CRUCIAL ANSWERS

■ CHARGES

In a survey of regular contribution with-profits personal pension plans, the Society was shown to have the lowest charges of all the companies surveyed. The effect of some other companies' charges is more than half as much again.

Source: Money Marketing Survey 10 year with-profits personal pension plans, £100pm contribution - 19 January 1995

■ PERFORMANCE

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*single contribution

Source: Money Marketing FPR With-Profits Survey 1994

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The international rating agency, Standard and Poor, when confirming the Society's AA rating said:

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Helen Pridham on what independent trustees do in an insolvency

Who guards the pension guardians?

There is growing criticism of the role of the independent trustees who normally have to be brought in to wind up pension funds when an employer becomes insolvent. At present, there are no checks on their competence, their charges or potential conflicts of interest, and the Government has not taken up the suggestion of the Pension Law Review Committee that it should be the job of the new pension regulator to appoint "suitable" trustees instead.

Independent trustees come in various shapes and sizes ranging from leading specialists such as the Law Debenture Corporation and Nabarro Nathanson, the firm of solicitors; offshoots of pension actuaries and consultants; and individuals who put themselves forward as independent trustees. Most, undoubtedly, do a good job for the members.

However, John Cunliffe, of McKenna & Co, the firm of solicitors, who acted for the Coloroll pension fund trustees when they tested out the Barber judgment in the European Court, believes that the present system is far from perfect. He says: "There is nothing to stop a couple of former car breakers setting themselves up as independent trustees, winding a scheme up as quickly as they possibly can and clobbering it for fees. There are a few independent trustees who I wouldn't lend a penny to."

John Cunliffe says there is nothing to stop a couple of former car breakers setting up as independent trustees

The present system of dealing with pension schemes when companies go bust was put in place in November 1990. Since then it has been the legal duty of insolvency practitioners to appoint an independent trustee to wind up any pension scheme which is either a final salary scheme or a money purchase scheme with a guaranteed minimum pension, replacing state pension benefits.

Once appointed, the independent trustee has "immense power", according to Roger Key, company pension scheme specialist at R Watson & Sons, the firm of actuaries. The independent trustee takes all decisions in connection with the scheme which had previously been taken by the employer and other trustees. He can, and often does, simply dismiss any existing trustees involved with the scheme.

John Moloney, of the accountant Touche Ross, who is responsible for appointing independent trustees where his firm is acting as the insolvency practitioner, says: "I normally try to match the type of trustee to the type of company. With a large high profile insolvency, I will choose a larger firm as independent trustees. With the smaller company, mindful of the level of fees, I will probably choose an individual to act."

Although in law the first duty of the independent trustee is to get the best deal possible for pension scheme members, some commentators believe there is a danger of a conflict of interests because the trustees owe their jobs to the insolvency practitioner. There may be a temptation not to pursue so vigorously any debts to the scheme, such as unpaid contributions, while the insolvency practitioner is also trying to meet the demands of other creditors.

In theory, the job of winding up a pension scheme is a simple matter of following the scheme rules, which set down the order of priorities for the payment of beneficiaries out of the scheme assets.

However, as Mr Key points out: "Winding up a scheme where an employer has become insolvent is rarely straightforward. If an employer is in difficulties, the pension scheme tends to get neglected, records may be missing and there is often a contribution shortfall." Putting the pieces of this jigsaw together can be time-consuming. Yet there is no requirement for an independent trustee to have any relevant pension scheme expertise.

The president of the Insolvency Practitioners Association, Malcolm London, of Coopers & Lybrand, argues that: "Insolvency practitioners must satisfy themselves that an independent trustee has a sufficient degree of competence to carry out the job of winding up a scheme." However, he agrees that "it would not be a bad idea to have some objective criteria laid down by a pensions authority".

Graham Withers, divisional director of Godwins, the firm of actuaries and consultants, who himself acts as an independent trustee, also concedes that "it is a valid criticism that there are no minimum qualifications laid down and no quality control over the actions of independent trustees. It is solely down to the insolvency practitioner to decide whether they are up to the job or not."

Another potential problem concerns the independent trustee's fees. They are negotiated with the insolvency practitioner but are paid out of the pension fund — indeed they have a first charge on the pension fund. So a fund that has a small surplus could end up in deficit, or a small deficit could become larger as a result.

Since the emphasis is on the trustees' independence — they must not have had any previous connection with the scheme — it means members have first to pay for the time it takes them to become acquainted with the scheme.

Mr Cunliffe believes costs could be reduced if the emphasis was on suitability rather than independence. He says that with a straightforward money purchase scheme or final salary scheme it may not be necessary to bring in an independent trustee if the existing trustees are competent and willing to do the job. To avoid potential conflicts of interest, Mr Cunliffe believes that the power of appointment should go to the new Pensions Regulator.

REMEDY ROUTE

ONCE appointed, an independent trustee is answerable to the beneficiaries of the pension fund. However, he can be dismissed only by the courts. Members would need to have a strong case to get an independent trustee removed. Another course of action for an aggrieved beneficiary is to take the matter to the Pensions Ombudsman, who has the power to investigate and determine any complaint or dispute that arises between beneficiaries and a scheme's trustees.

CASE STUDY

THE case of one pension fund illustrates the difficulties facing an independent trustee. Pynford, an Essex construction company went into receivership in 1991. The scheme was worth £2.2 million. 97 per cent in Scottish Amicable's equities-based Scampi fund.

In May 1992, Pynford's receivers, Touche Ross, made John Norton independent trustee. Mr Norton is a retired solicitor and a former director of Hambros Bank, and, for five years, had chaired the pension fund of the Compressed Air Association.

Mr Norton dismissed the previous trustees, though one, Des Morgan, a former director of Pynford, said that he would have been happy to stay on unpaid to help to acquaint Mr Norton with the scheme and locate former employees. However, Mr Norton, the independent trustee for six other pension funds says: "I usually . . . find it pays me to be free of other trustees. I also feel it is unfair to ask them to continue when it is I who must make the decisions."

Mr Norton appointed new investment managers, solicitors and actuaries to advise on winding up the scheme. He was advised to switch the fund into gilts to reduce its volatility, and match its liabilities; he switched it again, early in 1991, into Kleinwort Benson's Pension Protector Portfolio Fund.

Mr Norton says: "When I took over Pynford's scheme, it was in deficit. I have now decided that rather than winding it up and giving beneficiaries less than they are entitled to, I will run it on a closed-fund basis. Using Kleinwort's fund, which is invested in a mixture of fixed-interest securities and derivatives, will enable the pension fund to gain from increases in the equity market but not the falls. I intend to continue in this way for five or ten years if necessary, until it is back in balance." So far, all existing pensioners have been paid, he emphasises.

Nevertheless, by last September, fund assets had fallen in value to £1.7 million. However, the deficit also fell, from £1.5 million to £1.1 million, because liabilities had declined because of increased interest rates. On costs, Mr Norton says: "Expenses which cover my fees and those of other advisers have been running at around £65,000 pa for the past two years, but I hope they will go down to around £55,000."

Members complain that they have still had no benefits calculation. Mr Norton blamed poor record-keeping by past administrators.

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Delays put widow's claim on hold

Liz Dolan looks into problems that arose over repaying a mortgage covered by an endowment policy

What happens to your mortgage if your partner dies before it is repaid? In common with millions of homebuyers, Josephine Barrons thought that this was one thing she did not have to worry about because the £17,500 mortgage taken out by herself and her husband, Roger, in 1988 was protected by an endowment policy.

But, when Mr Barrons died in a car accident in January, 1994, Mrs Barrons, of north London, discovered that things were not that simple. She had to wait ten months for the claim to be settled and, worse, the mortgage lender, Abbey National, still refused to release her deeds because, it said, she owed £263.18 in unpaid interest. Mrs Barrons was, therefore, being punished for a delay for which she was in no way responsible.

She had sent all relevant documentation, including an interim death certificate, within days of her husband's death. But Abbey says it is normal practice to continue charging interest on any loan until it is repaid, regardless of the circumstances. Friends Provident, the insurer, would not pay out until the results of the inquest were known, it added. The inquest was held on July 28. The coroner's notes appear to have turned up in early October. FP says it did not receive the claim form from Abbey until November.

The final payout was £18,039.37, including interest backdated to January 15. This was not enough to cover the outstanding debt because, while the insurer paid interest at 5 per cent, Abbey was charging interest at the prevailing mortgage rate, currently 8.34 per cent. The longer the delay, therefore, the greater the discrepancy between the payout and the amount owed.

Abbey and FP both say that they normally advise people in Mrs Barrons's position to continue with monthly interest payments until the claim has been settled. Mrs Barrons denies receiving such advice, but points out that, as her husband was the main breadwinner and she earns very little, she could not have afforded to continue the payments in any case.

Mr Barrons always assumed that the outstanding charges were made in error. "I couldn't understand it. We'd never missed a mortgage payment." Staff at her local Abbey branch appeared to be as confused as she was. "At one point, they said it was all a mistake and I didn't owe anything. Then they changed their minds again and said I did."

Four weeks ago, her branch sent a fax to the bank's Arkley mortgage centre asking why there was still an outstanding balance on the mortgage. It stated: "This needs to be sorted out urgently as Mrs Barrons did phone Arkley before Christmas ... The person to whom she spoke said that this would be investigated and promised to phone Mrs Barrons the next day. Mrs Barrons did not hear from the person at Arkley ... Obviously, this is a very distressing matter and it needs to be sorted out so that Mrs Barrons can at least forget about the worry about the outstanding mortgage."

The only response Mrs Barrons has received since then is a demand for £1.47 a month for the next 20 years.

On Monday, Weekend Money took up her case. After a series of phone conversations, Abbey finally issued the following statement: "We accept that there was a breakdown in communication at the end of last year and, therefore, as a gesture of goodwill, we are prepared to write off the outstanding balance of the mortgage.

"As a responsible lender, we could not assume the loan was paid off until we received the funds from the Friends Provident endowment."

There was no mention of any compensation for distress, but Mrs Barrons will now at least receive her deeds.

Comment, page 27

ROBIN MAYES

Josephine Barrons, centre, with her daughters, Jacqueline, and Kim, right

BRIEFINGS

The fourteenth *Directory of Grant-Making Trusts*, published by the Charities Aid Foundation, is larger and more detailed than before. The directory, which costs £53, should help fundraisers and grant-seekers to pinpoint charities most likely to fund their charitable projects. There are three new subdivisions: medicine and health, children and youth, and social welfare.

■ Card crime in ski resorts is climbing, according to Card Protection Plan, Europe's card protection services provider. CPP estimates that 2,500 plastic cards were lost or stolen on skiing holidays last year. CPP provides specific card protection cover that ensures all cards are cancelled within 20 seconds, replacement cards are produced, and emergency cash of up to £750 is made available within hours. At £7 a year per person, or £12 for a couple, CPP's policy covers all cards. Telephone: 0171-352 7755.

■ Beale Dobie has launched a *Portfolio Valuation Service* to provide an up-to-date actuarial valuation of traded endowment policy portfolios. The valuations can be produced on a *monthly, quarterly, half-yearly* or annual basis. There is a minimum valuation fee of £100. Telephone: 01621 851133.

■ Halifax Building Society has launched Building for the Future, an educative initiative to help young people to make financial and career decisions. The *series* of five videos, available free on request to UK secondary schools, is aimed at the 15 plus age group. The series covers 65 careers. A *new edition of The Next Step*, a careers and information guide for 1995 school-leavers, has also been published by the Halifax. Telephone: 01422 333333.

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The Equitable Life Personal Pension Plan provides considerable flexibility. Whether you want to increase or reduce your contributions, or decide to retire early - even earlier than you'd originally planned - there are no penalties to pay.

What is more, The Equitable Life, the world's oldest mutual life assurance society, has never paid commission to third parties for the introduction of new business.

So, if you would like to know more about how an Equitable pension can help you take control of your working life, call us direct on Aylesbury (0296) 26226 or return the coupon below for information by post and by telephone.

Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority

THE EQUITABLE LIFE, FREEPOST, WALTON STREET, AYLESBURY, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, HP21 7BR

To. The Equitable Life. FREEPOST Walton Street. AYLESBURY. Bucks HP21 7BR

I would welcome details on The Equitable's pension plans. I am self employed ☐ TMPY5A

I am an employee not in a company pension scheme ☐

NAME (Mr Mrs Miss) ____

ADDRESS ____

Tel: (Office) ____

Tel: (Home) ____

Date of Birth ____

Postcode ____

We guarantee that no company outside The Equitable Group will receive these details. If, however, you would prefer to receive no further information from us please tick this box ☐

Founded 1762

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You profit from our principles

New Income Builder PEP from the award winning Fund Manager.

The Sunday Telegraph
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The Sunday Telegraph
Large Unit Trust Group of the Year – 1994.

The Sunday Times
International Unit Trust Manager of 1994.

There are several good reasons why you should invest in the new Schroder Income Builder PEP:

- Based on a new investment trust, the PEP is specifically designed to grow your income tax free. It also has the potential to increase your capital. By investing in UK companies with dividend growth potential we won't be chasing the highest immediate yields, but we will aim to build you a high, growing income over time. The result? You should have more money to spend in the future.
- Invest during the launch period, between February 7th and March 1st, and you can choose to invest in a PEP for 1994/95, invest in a PEP for 1995/96, or invest in PEPs for both tax years – that's up to a total of £12,000 invested tax free.
- And as an extra launch benefit our new PEP is completely free from our usual 3% PEP charge – representing a saving of £180 on each £6,000 PEP.
- We know the secret to building a high income. The Schroder Income Fund, a unit trust run along similar lines to the investment trust in the new PEP, is a good illustration of consistent long term outperformance.

  £6,000 invested 15 years ago would have earned you £1,393 net in income last year – a substantial increase on your first year's income of £320.70*.

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- But perhaps the best reason for taking out a Schroder Income Builder PEP is that you will be investing with a house which has won the approval – and the awards – of independent experts. So, for a high income in the future, invest now in the Schroder Income Builder PEP.

Schroders
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Act now to find out more – call us free or return the coupon opposite. The special launch brochure and personalised application forms will be sent to you shortly after the launch date, February 7th. Alternatively, contact your usual financial adviser.

Call 0800 002 000

To: SCHRODER INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LIMITED, 00890 FREEPOST 22 (SW1565), LONDON W1E 7EZ.
Please send me my free brochure and application forms for the Schroder Income Builder PEP.

Name ____

Address ____

____ Postcode ____

Tel. No. ____

Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. The value of investments and the income from them may go down as well as up and investors may not get back the amount originally invested. Tax concessions are subject to statutory change. The value of any tax reliefs depends on personal circumstances. Share applications will be accepted only on the application form accompanying the Listing Particulars.

**Source: Schroders, income for fund accounting year 1993/4, income for fund accounting year 1979/80 and the total income for each fund accounting year since 1979/80 (i.e. assuming an investment in June 1979).*

This advertisement, which does not constitute an offer for shares, is issued by Schroder Investment Management Limited, Senator House, 85 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4EJ. Registered Office, 33 Gutter Lane, London EC2V 8AS. Registered in England No 1893220. Regulated by IMRO.

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I/We enclose £ ____ (minimum £5,000, maximum £500,000) for investment in the Fixed Rate Option Bond.

(Please tick appropriate box) ☐ Annual Interest ☐ Monthly Interest ☐ For Further Information

Name(s) ____

Address ____

Postcode ____ Tel ____ Signature(s) ____

Please make cheques payable to Cheshire Building Society. Information supplied may be used to offer services from Cheshire Building Society. If you do not want to receive information please advise us

If investment interest has been paid out to you within the last 90 days or your investment has not been with us for over 90 days, early closure would lead to a reduction in capital. Interest will be paid net of income tax (currently 25%, which may be reclaimed by non-taxpayers), or subject to the required certification can be paid gross. Interest cannot be paid gross to non U.K. taxpayers. Early closure is allowed, subject to 90 days interest penalty. No partial withdrawals or further deposits are allowed. Interest will be earned from the fourth day following the date the Society receives your cheque. Member of the Building Societies Association, Investors Protection Scheme and Building Societies Ombudsman Scheme

AIRWAYS RESIDENTIAL AUTHORISED PROPERTY UNIT TRUST

FIXED PRICE OFFER CLOSES 5pm FRIDAY 10th FEBRUARY 1995

UNITS OFFERED AT £1.00

An offer of Units in the Airways Residential Authorised Property Unit Trust at an initial offer price of £1.00 per Unit by the Airways Unit Trust Managers Limited, a member of IMRO and regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. All assets of the Unit Trust, which is the first residential property unit trust to be authorised by the Securities and Investments Board, will be held in trust for unit holders by the Trustee, Barclays Bank Plc.

KEY POINTS AT A GLANCE

- Potential for income and capital growth from investment in rented residential property concentrating on areas benefiting from the expansion of the civil aviation industry.
- First year's estimated annual rental income distribution to investors of 4.5% (gross) expected to rise by RPI each year.
- An investment realisable at just a few days' notice.
- Property investment and management expertise from the Airways Housing Group.

British Airways • British Airways Plc, a major employer in the Heathrow area, has stated its support for the objectives of the Airways Unit Trust.

Established demand at Heathrow • The money subscribed will be used primarily to purchase a range of good quality housing of conventional construction in an area of high employment and growth prospects around Heathrow. These homes will be appropriate for occupation by people employed in the civil aviation industry, including the engineering, professional and administrative staff of British Airways Plc. Where attractive opportunities to invest in related commercial properties arise these could form a subsidiary part of the investment portfolio.

Future Growth at Regional Airports • The Manager also perceives increasing capital values and rental returns available from investment in residential property and commercial property associated with the airline industry near selected regional airports with potential for a high growth rate in passenger traffic.

Investment Expertise • The Airways Housing Society Limited is one of the country's major registered housing associations and the holding company of the Airways Housing Group. Established in 1947, it now manages over 4,000 occupancies, including both residential and commercial properties, around major U.K airports. It will provide property investment and management services to the Airways Unit Trust.

Annual Income • Rental income from the properties will be applied towards payment (after expenses of the Airways Unit Trust) of an annual income distribution estimated to be 4.5% gross in the first full year of operation. Future income distributions are expected to rise by at least the Retail Price Index each year as rents increase.

Realising Capital Growth • The price of Units reflects the value of the assets of the Airways Unit Trust. The assets are valued fortnightly and any changes in the value of the properties will be reflected in changes to the price of Units. Investors can realise the value of their Units by giving notice of redemption which will be honoured at the next fortnightly determination of the redemption price. Normally cash payable on redemption will be remitted to investors within four business days of redemption being effected.

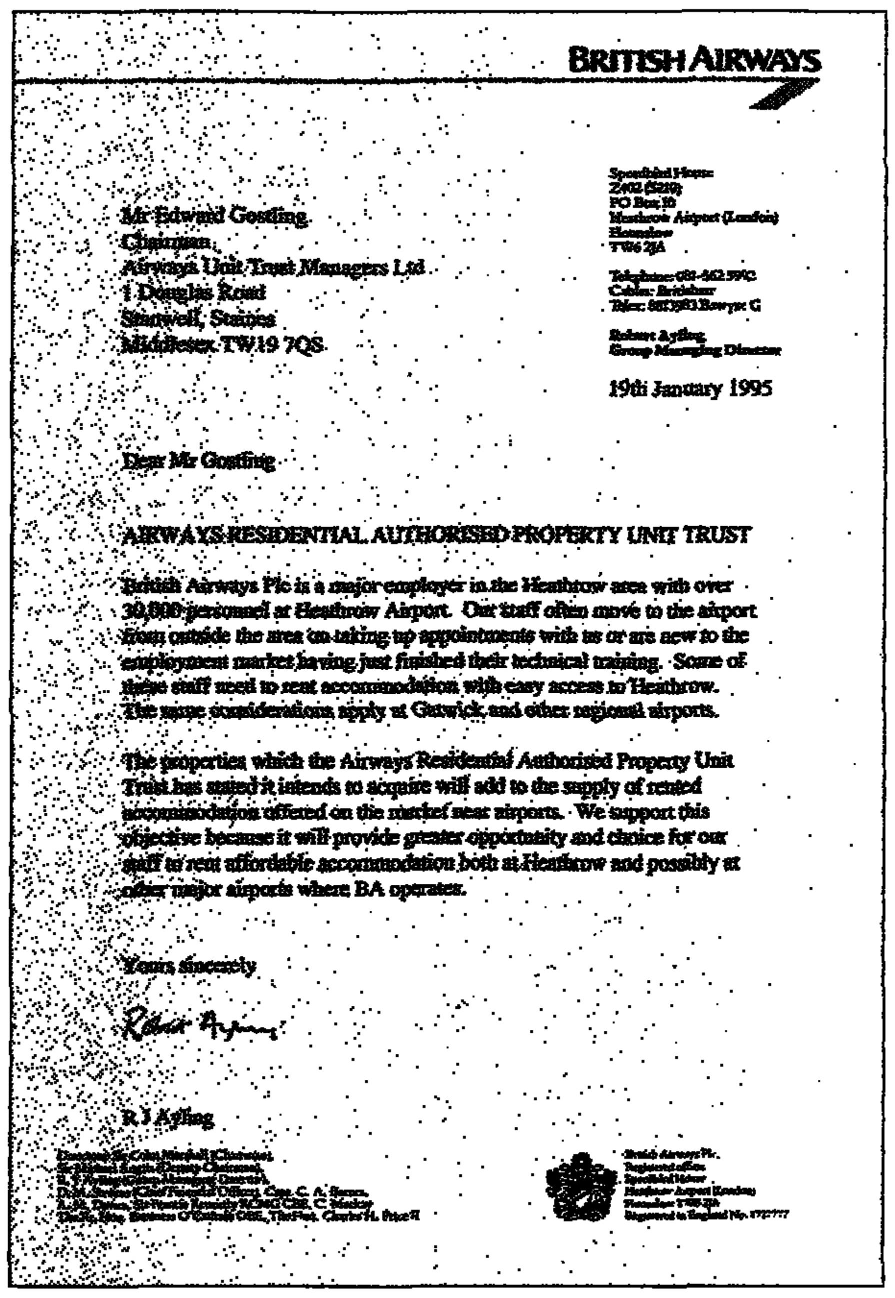
Issue Underwritten • The Airways Housing Trust PLC has underwritten the minimum subscription of the issue up to £5million, and has also agreed to purchase a total of 100,000 Units at launch in addition to any Units subscribed for individually by Directors of the Manager.

Enhanced Liquidity • Liquidity is enhanced because of the unique residential property repurchase arrangements negotiated on behalf of the Airways Unit Trust. The Airways Housing Trust PLC, the principal trading company in the Airways Housing Group, can be required, up to a maximum cost of £5million over a period of five years, to buy certain properties at a price equal to the greater of either the then open market value or the original cost plus any change in the Nationwide Building Society Residential Property Index. The sum available is reduced by any amount applied by The Airways Housing Trust PLC in underwriting the initial offer.

Security of Investment • Unitholders have the security that all the assets of the Unit Trust will be held in trust by Barclays Bank Plc. This is the first residential property unit trust to be authorised by the Securities and Investments Board (SIB). The Manager is a member of IMRO and regulated by the Personal Investment Authority.

Minimum Investment • The minimum investment is a £500 lump sum, each Unit being at a fixed price of £1 during the initial offer period which commenced at 5 p.m. on Friday 20th January 1995 and expires at 5 p.m. on Friday 10th February 1995. Alternatively, investors can save from as little as £50 a month through the Airways Regular Savings Plan by direct debit. For full details, and a copy of the full prospectus, please call Freephone 0800 210248.

AIR MILES Offer • Free AIR MILES awards with every £2,000 initial lump sum subscription and thereafter on investments of £1,000 or more, where subscriptions are received before the expiry of the initial offer period.



BRITISH AIRWAYS

Speedbird House
Z402 (S210)
PO Box 10
Heathrow Airport (London)
Hounslow
TW6 2JA

Telephone: 081-562 5990
Cables: Britishair
Telex: 8813983 Bawys G

Robert Ayling
Group Managing Director

19th January 1995

Mr Edward Gostling
Chairman
Airways Unit Trust Managers Ltd
1 Douglas Road
Stanwell, Staines
Middlesex TW19 7QS

Dear Mr Gostling

AIRWAYS RESIDENTIAL AUTHORISED PROPERTY UNIT TRUST

British Airways Plc is a major employer in the Heathrow area with over 30,000 personnel at Heathrow Airport. Our staff often move to the airport from outside the area on taking up appointments with us or are new to the employment market having just finished their technical training. Some of these staff need to rent accommodation with easy access to Heathrow. The same considerations apply at Gatwick and other regional airports.

The properties which the Airways Residential Authorised Property Unit Trust has stated it intends to acquire will add to the supply of rented accommodation offered on the market near airports. We support this objective because it will provide greater opportunity and choice for our staff to rent affordable accommodation both at Heathrow and possibly at other major airports where BA operates.

Yours sincerely

R J Ayling

British Airways Plc.
Registered office:
Speedbird House
Heathrow Airport (London)
Hounslow TW6 2JA
Registered in England No. 1777777

Summary of Risk Factors

The Manager believes that the following risk factors are relevant to this investment:

- As the Unit Trust is a property fund, investors should be aware that they may not be able to realise their investment in the Unit Trust when they choose because the property in the Unit Trust may not always be readily saleable and, during periods when it is not readily saleable, the Manager may refuse to repurchase an investor's units. As a result of this, the Unit Trust may be suitable only for those investors who have capital which may be committed on a long-term basis.
- There could be a change in the scope of the legislation affecting either assured tenancies or unit trusts. The Manager considers that such changes in legislation are unlikely to affect existing tenancies. However, any new lettings, and the management of the Airways Unit Trust itself, would have to follow any revised rules and this could affect the future performance of the Airways Unit Trust.
- The capital growth available to investors will principally depend upon the performance of the residential property market. The valuation of underlying property assets of the Airways Unit Trust is generally a matter of the opinion of the Standing Independent Valuer, and not of fact. The capital value of Units can go down as well as up, and past performance is no guarantee of future performance. An investor may not therefore realise on redemption of his Units the sum originally invested.
- The yield to investors depends upon there being a sufficient supply of tenants for the properties, upon rent levels remaining stable and property management costs not exceeding income. Income yields can go down as well as up.
- For investors wishing to dispose of their Units, the realisation of their investment may in part depend upon the ability of The Airways Housing Trust PLC to meet its property purchase obligations under the arrangements detailed earlier. However, investors should take note of the agreement of The Airways Housing Trust PLC to place £5million in a secure deposit account at Barclays Bank Plc, the reducing balance of which after any such purchase will be available for up to 5 years after the launch of the Airways Unit Trust. In circumstances where property comprised in the Airways Unit Trust, is not readily saleable, the Manager may defer redemption of Units for a limited period in accordance with the Regulations.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Investment Strategy

The investment strategy is to purchase homes of conventional construction, typically costing between £40,000 – £200,000, in major areas of civil aviation employment such as Heathrow. The Airways Unit Trust may also purchase housing of a higher value and other properties such as short term residential or training accommodation. Later it is intended to target regional airports where there is high growth potential and also to diversify into related commercial property that will benefit from the need of airports for locally based high technology support industries.

Annual Income Distribution

The experience of the Airways Housing Group, which already manages thousands of homes, including 600 purchased with funds raised under the Business Expansion Scheme, indicates that the first year annual income distribution to investors in the Airways Unit Trust is likely to be 4.5% gross.

Typical purchase price including on-costs of a two bedroom family house in the Heathrow area	£72,000	**Net rent after management costs and overheads**	£3,240	**Estimated first year annual income distribution to unitholders.**	4.5%

As an example, this estimate cannot be guaranteed. The actual distribution may be more, or less.

The foregoing estimate for the first year annual income distribution has been prepared by the Manager on the basis of the following:

- £10 million of funds under management during the first year of which 80% is invested in residential property, 10% in shares of quoted property companies and 10% in money market cash deposits.
- Gross investment income of 6% per annum on cash deposits.
- The typical purchase price of a two-bedroom family house includes £2,000 allowed for survey, legal costs, initial repairs and administration. The £70,000 acquisition price is derived from the Airways Housing Group's market intelligence on purchases of similar houses in the Heathrow area during the first nine months of 1994.
- The residential property assets comprise an average of 110 such houses at any one time during the first year of operation.
- Each house is rented out during the whole year at a gross rent of £4,680 per annum, from which £1,440 per annum is applied against rent losses, management costs, maintenance costs and a proportion of the total overheads of the Airways Unit Trust which are spread over the total receipts of the Airways Unit Trust both from rentals and money market deposits.
- Corporation tax on gross income of the Airways Unit Trust has been assumed at the basic corporate rate of 20%.
- No account has been taken of changes in the value of properties held.
- The estimated distribution is that available to a Unitholder who has not elected for income to be reinvested and is stated before tax in the hands of the unitholder.

It is expected that rents, and hence yields to investors, will increase over time at the rate of price inflation and more probably in line with the usually higher rate of earnings inflation. This should mean that your investment will be "inflation protected" with increases in the yield equal over time to increases in the cost of living. This compares favourably with index linked government stocks, which provide a substantially lower income and are only linked to price inflation.

Charges and Expenses

The Manager's preliminary charge, which is included in the issue price of each Unit, including the initial offer price of £1, is currently 5.5% of the creation price of each Unit. The trust deed constituting the Airways Unit Trust permits a maximum preliminary charge of 7.5%. The Manager is also entitled under the trust deed to make a periodic charge, not exceeding 1.25% per annum, which accrues daily and is calculated on the value of the property of the Airways Unit Trust in accordance with the Regulations. The current periodic charge is 0.9% per annum. Any increase in the preliminary or the periodic charge within the maximum specified can only be made after giving written notice to the Trustee and Unitholders and after making available, for 90 days, scheme particulars in relation to the Airways Unit Trust amended to reflect the increase.

The Trustee is entitled to receive out of the property of the Airways Unit Trust for its own account a periodic fee (exclusive of transaction costs), which is calculated on a scale reflecting the value of the property of the Airways Unit Trust and is currently 0.1% per annum for the first £5million in value of the property of the Airways Unit Trust and 0.08% per annum on any amount over £5million in value. This fee accrues on a daily basis and is payable on the last business day in each month.

All costs and expenses of The Airways Housing Trust PLC for the provision by it of residential property management services will be discharged from the property of the Airways Unit Trust in accordance with the Regulations. The costs and expenses of The Airways Housing Trust PLC in the provision of property investment services will be discharged by the Manager from the fees received by it in accordance with the provisions described above.

On expiry of the initial offer period, a third party investment manager may be appointed with specific responsibility for that part of the property of the Airways Unit Trust which may, in accordance with the Regulations and the Manager's investment policy, be invested in the securities of listed property companies. Details of the terms of such an appointment, if made, including as to remuneration, will be available from the Manager and comprised in the Scheme Particulars of the Airways Unit Trust.

Commission

Commission of 2.25% will be paid by the Manager to authorised advisers or intermediaries.

Your Investment Choices

Minimum Investment

The minimum investment is £500 and this or a larger sum can be invested as a lump sum or through a savings plan. If you choose to enter into a savings plan, the minimum commitment is £50 per month by direct debit. The two plans can be combined by depositing an initial lump sum and following it up with a savings plan to increase the number of Units held.

Special Fixed Price

Valid applications received before 5 p.m. on Friday 10th February 1995 will purchase Units at the initial fixed price of £1 each. Valid applications received after that date will purchase Units at the purchase price at the next Valuation Point following receipt of the funds. **No interest is payable on monies received and held pending purchase of Units.**

Distributions or Reinvestment

You can choose to have your annual income distribution sent to you by cheque or direct to your bank. The income distribution date will be 31st March in each year commencing 31st March 1996.

If you wish, the income can be reinvested in further Units and this investment will be made by the Manager at the mid-price between the redemption price and the purchase price as at a special valuation point immediately preceding the distribution date. If you wish to take advantage of this option, tick the reinvestment box on the application form.

Taxation of Unitholders

Distributions will be made with a tax credit equivalent to the lower rate of income tax which may be reclaimed from the Inland Revenue by non-tax payers, subject to their tax status. Higher rate tax payers will be assessed directly by the Inland Revenue for the difference.

A Unitholder is potentially liable to tax on income and tax on capital gains. A Unitholder will normally receive an income distribution which carries a tax credit at the lower rate of tax. In the case of the first distribution made in respect of units issued during that accounting period, the amount representing the income equalisation is a return of capital. Whilst it is not taxable as income, the amount must be deducted from the cost of units in computing any capital gain made on the disposal of units. When an income distribution is made to a unitholder, which will take place on or before each annual income payment date, each Unitholder will receive a tax voucher showing the applicable tax credit (at the lower rate of tax) in respect of the distribution which will enable the correct income to be shown on the individual unitholder's tax return. Non-taxpayers are entitled to reclaim the tax credit from the Inland Revenue. Lower and basic rate taxpayers will have no further tax to pay. Higher rate taxpayers, however, will have further tax to pay. The further amount payable will be the difference between the higher rate of tax on the gross distribution and the lower rate of tax. The gross distribution is the amount of the distribution plus the tax credit. Unitholders disposing of Units may be liable to capital gains tax if their net chargeable gains from all sources in the relevant tax year exceed the exempt amount. For the 1995/96 tax year the exempt amount is £6,000.

References to taxation are to United Kingdom taxation only and are based on the Manager's understanding of United Kingdom law and revenue practices as at the date of this document. The future basis and rates of taxation and availability of relevant reliefs may vary. Although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the foregoing comments on taxation, no responsibility can be taken by the Manager for its interpretation and prospective Unitholders should seek their own professional advice.

Appendix of Prescribed Information

1 The Manager of the Unit Trust is Airways Unit Trust Managers Limited. The Manager is a member of IMRO, regulated by the Personal Investment Authority, and is a member of the Airways Housing Group. The Trustee is Barclays Bank Plc of 54 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3AH, a member of IMRO. Property management services will be provided by The Airways Housing Trust PLC.

2 Units can be bought at prices determined with reference to the Valuation Point on each dealing day following acceptance of a purchase application. Units may be sold at prices determined with reference to the Valuation Point on each dealing day following acceptance of a redemption request. The maximum issue and minimum redemption prices will be published daily in the Financial Times and Daily Telegraph. No maximum purchase or minimum redemption price is stipulated in the trust deed of the Unit Trust, but the Manager may vary the price of Units within stipulated limits in accordance with the Regulations.

3 The Valuation Point is noon on each dealing day at which time the prices at which Units may be purchased from or redeemed by the Manager will be determined. Real property held within the Unit Trust is valued by the Standing Independent Valuer on the basis of a full valuation with physical inspection at least once a year, and a valuation on the basis of a review in accordance with the Regulations of the last full valuation fortnightly. Other property is valued fortnightly in accordance with the Regulations.

4 The gross yield is the expected annual income before tax, but after deduction of expenses, from the assets of the Unit Trust. The gross yield is expressed as a percentage of the purchase price, and is shown before the deduction of taxation, but after all other charges, and is published with the redemption and purchase prices. The gross yield is not a measure of capital growth in the value of assets held by the Unit Trust.

5 Units may, at the request of an investor, be issued either on terms that annual net income distribution will be automatically reinvested in the purchase of further Units, or on terms that annual income (net of basic rate tax) will be distributed to the investor. The income payment date for Units in the Unit Trust is 31st March in each year commencing 31st March 1996. Units subscribed for under the terms of the Regular Savings Plan Units are allocated at the purchase price determined at the next following Valuation Point. Units purchased through the reinvestment of income will be allocated at the price determined at a special annual valuation point for this purpose. The annual accounting date of the Unit Trust is 31st January in each year.

6 Applications to buy or sell Units can be made between 9.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. on any business day at the purchase or redemption prices calculated with reference to the next following Valuation Point. On a sale of Units payment will in normal circumstances be made within four business days of receiving a properly renounced Unit certificate in the case of lump sum holdings, or written instructions in the case of holdings within the Regular Savings Plan. When instructions are received to sell a Unit, a contract note will be despatched by the Manager within 24 hours of the transaction being effected. When instructions are received to purchase a Unit, a contract note will be despatched by the Manager within 24 hours of the redemption being effected. The Unit certificate should be received within 21 days of the purchase being completed.

7 No right to cancel an application for Units arises under the Financial Services (Cancellation) Rules 1989. However, the investor does have the right to stop contributions to the Regular Savings Plan or sell investments at any time. The legal right to cancel may arise where Units are purchased following advice received from an authorised intermediary, and the relevant cancellation notice will be provided by the Manager.

8 Further details concerning the Airways Unit Trust are contained in the Scheme Particulars which are available from the Manager at 1 Douglas Road, Stanwell, Staines, Middlesex, TW19 7QS. The Manager's six monthly and annual reports may when available be obtained from the same source.

Terms and Conditions of Application

- The subscription list for the initial offer opened at 5 p.m on Friday 20th January 1995 and no offer to subscribe for Units shall be capable of acceptance prior to that date and time. The initial offer period will end 21 days thereafter at 5 p.m. on Friday 10th February 1995. No Units will be issued unless the minimum subscription of £5million is achieved.
- The Manager reserves the right:
  (i) to present all cheques for payment on receipt and to retain documents of title and surplus application monies pending clearance of applicants' cheques;
  (ii) to reject any application or accept any application in part only.
- This payment must be solely for this application. Cheque(s) or banker's draft(s) must be drawn in sterling on an account or branch in the United Kingdom of a bank which is a member of the London or Scottish Clearing Houses.
- Applications will not be accepted if accompanied by a cheque drawn by someone other than the applicant or joint applicant.
- No interest will be payable on money held pending the issue of Units.
- Certificates will be despatched to the holder (or, in the case of joint holders, to the first-named holder) at the address appearing on the Application Form within 21 days of expiry of the initial offer period subject to receipt of payment and satisfactory registration details. All cheques, certificates and other documents will be despatched by post at the risk of the persons entitled thereto.
- Each applicant agrees that, having had the opportunity to read this document, the applicant shall be deemed to have had notice of all information and representations concerning the Airways Unit Trust and the Units contained herein.
- No person receiving a copy of this document and/or Application Form in any territory other than the United Kingdom may treat the same as constituting an invitation to him.
- All applications, acceptances and contracts resulting therefrom under this Offer shall be governed and construed in accordance with English law and each applicant submits to the non-exclusive jurisdiction of the English courts.

Glossary

Airways Unit Trust	Airways Residential Authorised Property Unit Trust, a unit trust established on 21st October 1994 under the terms of a deed made between the Manager and the Trustee.
Airways Housing Group	Airways Housing Society Limited, its subsidiaries and associated companies but excluding (save where the context otherwise expressly provides) the Manager.
business day	Any day (excluding Saturdays and Sundays) upon which banks are open for business in the City of London.
Dealing Day	The first and the fourteenth day of each month, where the same are business days and otherwise the business day next following each such day.
Income Payment Date	31st March in each year (commencing 31st March 1996) being the date on or before which income available for distribution in respect of the preceding accounting period is distributed to unitholders.
Index of Residential Property Prices.	The index of residential property prices published quarterly by the Nationwide Building Society.
Manager	Airways Unit Trust Managers Limited.
The Regulations	The Financial Services (Regulated Schemes) Regulations 1991 made by the Securities and Investments Board.
Scheme Particulars	Particulars of the constitution, objectives and operation of the Unit Trust prescribed in accordance with the Regulations.
Trustee	Barclays Bank Plc.
Unit	One share (including fractions) in the Airways Unit Trust.
The Valuation Point	Noon on each Dealing Day being the time at which the assets held by the Unit Trust are valued for the purpose of determining the redemption and purchase prices of Units.

PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATION

1 Where you wish to make an initial lump sum investment, insert in figures in box 1 the amount at £1 per Unit for which you are applying. The amount shown should correspond to the amount of your cheque(s)/banker's draft(s) which should accompany your application. Applications must be for a minimum of 500 Units if you are making an initial lump sum investment.

2 Indicate by ticking box 2 if you wish annual income distributions to be re-invested. If you do not tick this box, annual income distributions will be despatched to you.

3 Insert in box 3 your full name and address in BLOCK CAPITALS in the spaces provided.

4 Sign and date the Application Form in box 4. The Application Form may be signed by someone else on your behalf if duly authorised to do so but the power(s) of attorney or form(s) of authority (or duly certified copy thereof) must be enclosed for inspection. Joint applications are acceptable. In this case you should both sign the Application Form and your full names and addresses in block capitals should be attached on a separate sheet of paper.

5 Please pin your cheque(s) or banker's draft(s) to your completed Application Form. Your cheque(s) or banker's draft(s) must be payable to **Airways Unit Trust Managers Limited** and should be crossed "Account Payee". The cheque should be for your initial investment. Applications will not be accepted if accompanied by a cheque drawn by someone other than the applicant.

6 ***Tick box 6 to confirm your understanding that no interest will be paid on sums received pending issue of Units. SIB regulations stipulate, for the protection of investors, that your express confirmation be given, without which your application cannot be processed.***

If you are in any doubt as to the action you should take, you should consult an appropriately authorised professional financial adviser.

For copies of the full Prospectus please call 0800 210248 over the weekend, alternatively call Velda Lawrence or Simon Tattersfield on 0784 247311 Monday to Friday.

APPLICATION FORM

TT 4.2.95

Please read the Terms and Conditions of Application and the Procedure for Application prior to completing all appropriate sections of the Application Form. Cheques should be made payable to.

Airways Unit Trust Managers Limited and sent to the Managers at C/o Ravensbourne Registration Services Limited, PO Box 832, 199 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3YT.

1. Amount enclosed for initial investment
£ x

£500 minimum investment
*100 free air miles will be despatched for investments over £2,000 plus 50 for every additional £1,000 invested during the initial offer period

2. Income Reinvested x ☐
Please tick as appropriate.

Gentlemen,

I/We irrevocably offer to subscribe for Units on the terms and conditions and subject to the Trust Deed of the Airways Residential Authorised Property Unit Trust.

I/We enclose my/our cheque(s) or banker's draft(s) payable to **Airways Unit Trust Managers Limited** for the above-mentioned sum being the amount payable on application for the stated number of Units in accordance with the Procedure for Application.

I/We agree to accept the same or any lesser number (being not less than 500) of Units in respect of which this application may be accepted. In consideration of your agreeing to consider applications on the terms and subject to the conditions opposite, I/We agree that this application shall be irrevocable and that this paragraph shall constitute a collateral contract between me/us and you which shall become binding upon delivery of this Application Form duly completed at the address shown above.

I/We hereby:

(i) request that a definitive certificate for the number of Units in respect of which this application is accepted, together with a cheque, if applicable, for any surplus application money, shall be sent by post at my/our own risk to the address given below or as I/we may otherwise direct.

(ii) confirm that the due completion and delivery of this Application Form accompanied by a cheque will constitute an undertaking that the cheque will be honoured on first presentation;

(iii) confirm that I am/we are over 18 years of age.

3.
First name(s) in full x ______ (USE BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)
Surname (Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms or Title) x ______
Address (in full) x ______
______ Postcode x ______

4.
Signature x ______ Date x ______

5. Pin your cheque(s)/banker's draft(s) for the amount shown above which should be crossed "Account Payee".

6 I acknowledge that no interest will be paid on sums received pending issue of Units.
Please tick here x ☐

TELEPHONE DEALING:

0171-256-5868

Airways
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THE TIMES WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Relief of negative equity a priority

From M. T. James

Sir, We continue to hear much through your columns about the plight of people with negative equity.

I cannot believe I am alone in my view that it is time something more was done to alleviate this problem. I am acquainted with several young families in this situation and have seen the desolation it brings. Even if they keep their homes, many of them will continue to feel the effects throughout the greater proportion of their lives, unless of course there is a miraculous recovery in the market.

What particularly concerns me, in addition to the human angle, is that there are so many of them, almost a generation of the workforce on whom we depend for the future.

Undoubtedly, these people must bear some responsibility for their own actions, but equally, so must the Government which created the conditions that few could anticipate.

It also seems to be accepted that building societies were at fault in allowing people to borrow beyond reason. It is astounding and seems almost immoral that the Government, by its actions, now seems intent on making matters worse. At the same time, the major building societies are planning mergers and restructuring which seem to offer little benefit to borrowers.

Would it not be entirely reasonable that Government and building societies should combine forces to ameliorate the problem, through a combination of tax and cash offsets?

In this way, the Government could hope to redeem itself and the building societies demonstrate that perhaps they really do give priority to the long-term interests of the housing market.

Yours faithfully,
M. T. JAMES,
21 Woodshears Road,
Malvern,
Worcester.

When a former wife's loss of pension seems unfair

From Dr James Gibson

Sir, I found your article about pensions and divorce (Weekend Money, January 14) very interesting and I wonder whether you are aware of yet another major injustice that takes place when some of us are divorced.

I worked as a teacher and lecturer and retired at 62. I had been married for most of my career and had paid extra pension contributions so that my wife would receive half of my pension when I died. Unfortunately, my marriage broke up shortly after I retired, and several years later I decided to marry again. I was then told by the Department of Education & Science Pensions Department in Darlington that on second marriage my ex-wife would, because of the divorce, lose the half share of the pension she might otherwise have expected. Nor would my second wife have any entitlement to a share of my pension.

I accept that a second wife might expect nothing as all my pension payments were made during the period of my first marriage, but that my ex-wife should lose her right to a pension on my death seems grossly unfair.

Couldn't it be said that it is an administrative decision that encourages people to live in what used to be called sin?

I suspect that we are not alone in being so badly treated.

Incidentally, as I am ten years older than my ex-wife, the Chancellor of the Exchequer should be laughing all the way to the bank.

Yours sincerely,
JAMES GIBSON,
21 Abbot's Walk,
Cerne Abbas,
Dorchester.

Letters or information for Weekend Money may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5082. They should include a daytime number. *The Times* regrets that it cannot always give individual replies or advice and asks that original documents are not sent in. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns and independent professional advice should be sought.

We, the OAPs, should be grateful that you, the YOBs, have formed a group to protect us
GED

Identity crisis over bank accounts

From J. Fox

Sir, I have been reading with great interest the letters about the problems some people have been having in order to prove their identity just to open an account with a bank or a building society.

I cannot drive, I have never been abroad and I am not a property owner, and so I do not have any of the documents required by banks and building societies to open an account. All household bills are paid by my partner.

I do have a birth certificate, but the name on it is different from the one I have used since I left school 40 years ago.

I have not worked for several years and I do not receive any pension or unemployment benefit.

So, if I want to open an account, how can I prove I'm me? As I seem to have an identity problem, perhaps it could be argued I am an example of an argument for the introduction of national identity cards!

Yours faithfully
J. FOX,
4 Albion Street,
Portslade, East Sussex.

Bill gives control to those who pose threat to pensioners

From Mr Don Langford

Sir, There is before Parliament a Pensions Bill which is intended to produce legislation to protect the rights of pensioners. It will have a considerable effect upon every person in this country. There is, however, a worrying silence surrounding the publication of this Bill.

The Government is keen to preserve the application of trust law to the proposed legislation and I have no disagreement with that. I would, however, expect the trustees of pension schemes to include at least one pensioner. One would not be unreasonable in thinking that at least 50 per cent of the trustees should be appointed from pensioners, whose money, after all, is the purpose of the trust. But that is not to be! The proposed legislation fails to provide for even one pensioner to be a trustee unless he or she forms part of the 33 per cent of member-nominated trustees.

In a briefing which the DSS has issued to MPs, against the question "Will there be pensioner trustees?" they advise: "If each group of beneficiaries is to have a right to appoint a trustee, then trustees will increasingly be seen as representatives of those who appoint them, thus weakening the ability of the trustees to function collectively as a board. What is important is to have trustees who are not appointed by management ... Schemes should not be required to appoint pensioner trustees but should be encouraged to consider including pensioner trustees on the board." I suspect that the cuckoo must have arrived early!

This is, however, a serious matter as anyone who has suffered as a result of the Robert Maxwell affair, and many others in similar situations, will testify. We must make it known to MPs that we cannot accept such legislation; by giving employers 66 per cent of voting rights, the Bill will hand complete control over schemes' assets to the very people that the legislation is intended to protect pensioners against!

It is no good making thousands of people take early retirement and not expecting them to take a much more active interest in their pensions than was the case ten or even five years ago.

Yours faithfully,
DON LANGFORD
(Chairman),
English China Clays
Executive Retirement Benefits
Scheme Pensioners'
Association,
20 Sea Road, Carlyon Bay,
St Austell, Cornwall.

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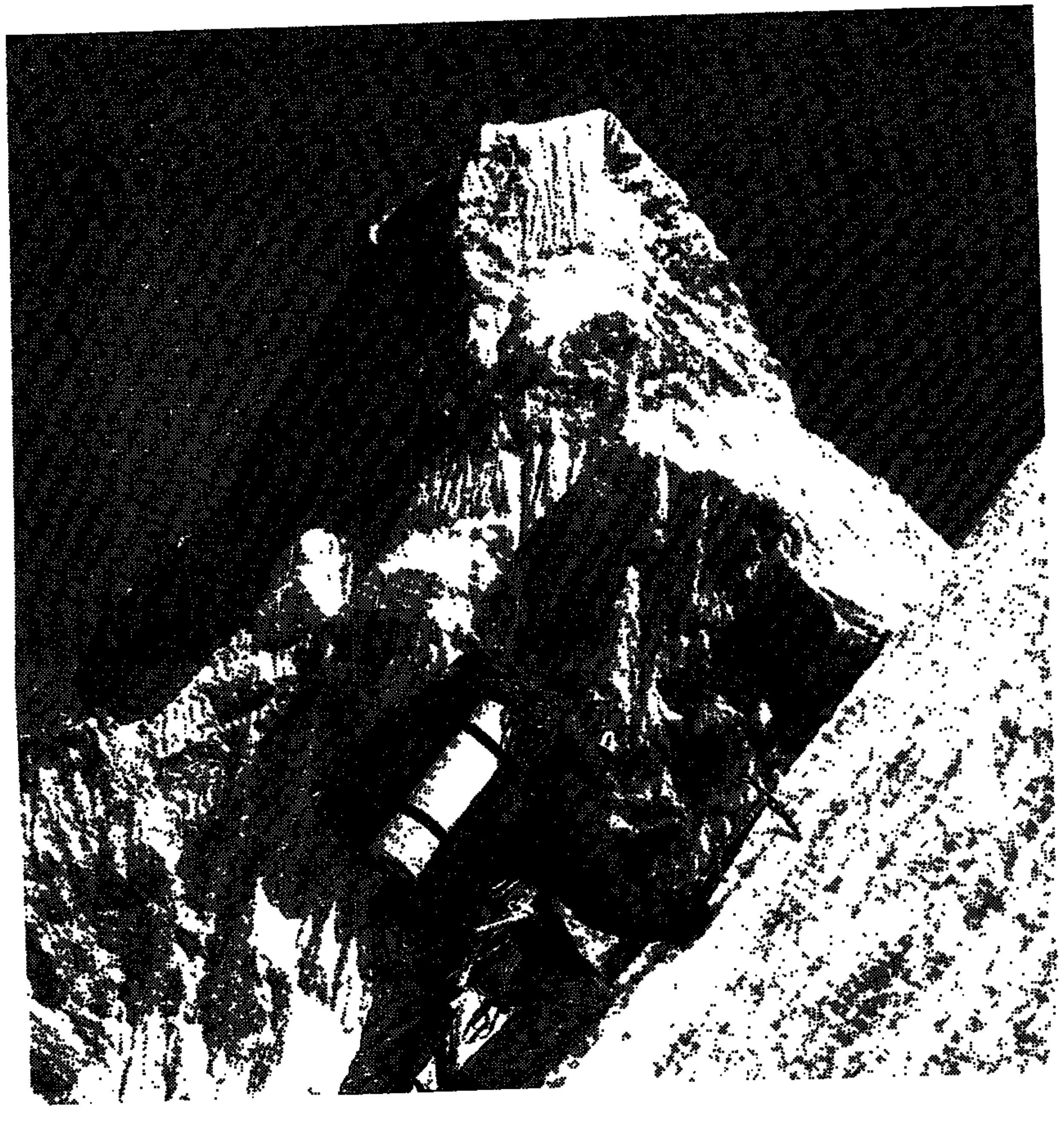

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*Sherwood/Planned Savings awards, September 1994. All statistics are to 2nd January 1995 and are on an offer-to-bid basis with gross income reinvested (source: Micropal). Current tax levels and reliefs are liable to change and their value will depend on your individual circumstances. The value of an investment and the income from it can go down as well as up (this may partly be the result of exchange rate fluctuations) and you may not get back the amount invested. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance.

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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

It is still a buyers' market for loans

HOW can you tell that it is still a buyers' market for loans? By the number of fixed rates and discounts that lenders are offering to soften the blow to borrowers of higher standard mortgage rates and tempt more people into the market.

■ **The Yorkshire Building Society** is offering first-time buyers a 7 per cent discount off its variable rate of 8.44 per cent for six months, followed by a 3 per cent discount for the next six months. Existing borrowers and those remortgaging can get a discount of 1.9 per cent for three years if they have a deposit of up to 25 per cent of the purchase price. If they have more than 25 per cent of the purchase price to put down as a deposit, the discount is 2 per cent for three years. There is an arrangement fee of £100. If you cash in the loan in the first two years, there is a penalty of six months' gross interest. If you cash in after the first two years, the penalty is three months' gross interest.

■ **The Bradford & Bingley Building Society** has increased its one-year discounts for new borrowers. Those with a deposit for 25 per cent or more of the purchase price will get 5.3 per cent off the standard rate, giving them a rate of 3.15 per cent. Those borrowing between 90 per cent and 95 per cent of the property's price will get a discount of 3.8 per cent, giving them a rate of 4.65 per cent. There are also discounts over two or three years.

■ **Coventry Building Society** has new fixed rates and discounts for all customers buying or remortgaging. Remortgagers can take a two-year fixed rate of 6.95 per cent with £600 cashback towards valuation or legal fees or £250 cashback plus free remortgage legal package worth £600. The society also has a two-year discount of 2.50 per cent with £600 cashback or cashback/legal fees package. First-time buyers have a one-year discount of 6.4 per cent with cashback of £300 and existing borrowers moving can have a 1.75 per cent discount for four years with £300 cashback.

■ **NatWest** is offering a fixed rate of 6.99 per cent until June 30, 1997, and £400 cashback on new mortgage applications. The offer holds for both new customers and existing mortgage holders applying for a loan before February 28. First-time buyers and existing customers will not be charged the £250 arrangement fee.

SARA MCCONNELL

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Yorkshire BS 0800 378836	1st Class Acc	Postal	£1,000	5.95	Yly
Skipton BS 01756 700511	3 High Street	Instant	£2,000	6.10	Yly
Britannia BS 01538 391741	Capital Trust	Postal	£10,000	6.35	Yly
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Go Direct	Instant	£20,000	6.90	Yly

FIXED RATES	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Halifax BS 01422 333333	Guaranteed Res	2yr bond	£2,000	8.10	F/Yly
Britannia BS 0800 269655	3 year Fixed	3yr bond	£2,000	8.75	F/Yly
Cooperative Bank 0800 125100	Fixed Rate Bond	3yr bond	£2,000	9.25	OM
Bristol & West BS 01179 294271	Fixed Rate Bond	5yr bond	£5,000	8.70	F/Mly

TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Britannia BS 0800 269655		5 year	£8,200	9.25	F/Yly
Hinckley & Rugby BS 01455 251234		5 year	£3,000 A	7.65	Yly
Holmesdale BS 01737 245716		5 year	£1	7.40	Yly
Tipton & Coseley BS 0121 557 2551		5 year	£1	7.35	Yly

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Robert Fleming S&P 0800 282101	MasterCard/Visa	1.00%	14.60%	£12
Royal Bank of Scotland 01702 349393	MasterCard	1.25%	16.00%	Nil C
Alliance & Leicester 0500 900250	Visa	1.375%	18.90%	£10 E

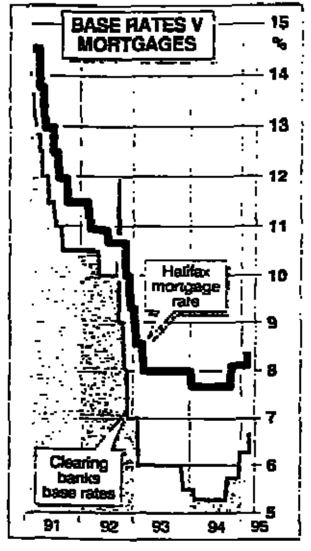
PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

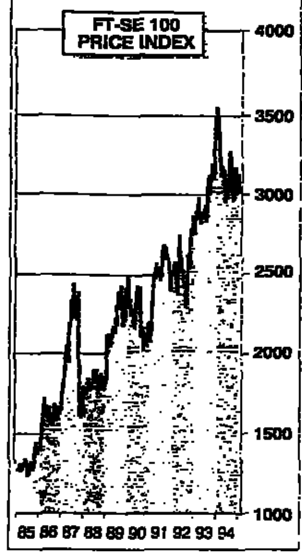
	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Northern Bank (NI) 01232 245277	13.60%	£114.27	£100.83
Midland Bank 0345 180180	15.40%	£116.54	£103.14
Abbey National 01908 680140	15.90%	£115.81	£103.77
Clydesdale Bank 0141 223 2216	16.20%	£113.94	£103.33

Nb. A - Feeder account required. In the interest paid columns, C = no interest free period D = annual fee rebated £1.5K+ charged per annum E = Annual fee waived for 1st year for new accounts F = fixed rate (all other rates are variable); OM denotes interest paid on maturity

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 665)





NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 25%	40%	Min/maximum investment £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c¹	2.00	1.50	1.20	10-10,000		010416494555
Investment A/c*	5.25	3.94	3.15	20-500	1mth	010416494555
Income Bond*	6.50	4.88	3.90	2,000-24,999	3mth	010253766151
First Opt Bond	6.40	4.80	3.84	1,000-250,000		010416362558
42nd Issue Cert†	5.85			100-10,000	8day	010913864900
Yearly Plan†	5.85			20-400/mth	14day	010913864900
Children's Bond†	7.86			25-1,000	1mth	010416362635
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					
Capital Bond	7.75	5.81	4.65	100-250,000	8day	010416362603
8th Index Linked†	3.00			100-10,000	8day	010913864900
Pensnrs Bond S2	7.50	5.63	4.50	500-20,000	60day	010253766151

¹First £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free. Inst accs for up to £100 ² Additional hldgs up to £20,000 for reinvested proceeds †Tax free *Rates gross and vble ‹Guaranteed when held for 5 years ›0.3% net bonus for £20,000+ ³£40,000 jt in addition to S1 holdings ª Taxable but cred in full.

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Equit Life ....Level	£10,970	£12,004	£13,330
Royal Life ....Level	£10,782	£11,896	£13,411
Can Life ....Level	£10,700	£11,850	£13,412
Stan Life ....Level	£10,688	£11,732	£13,100
Generali ....Level	£10,692	£11,706	£13,032

SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Royal Life ....Level	£10,064	£10,876	£12,084
Equitable ....Level	£9,933	£10,743	£11,862
Can Life ....Level	£9,887	£10,707	£11,917
Generali ....Level	£9,805	£10,636	£11,792
Norwich ....Level	£9,774	£10,498	£11,574

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS	Male: Age 60 Female: Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Royal Life ....Level	£9,624	£10,242	£11,135
Equitable ....Level	£9,549	£10,163	£11,008
Can Life ....Level	£9,486	£10,125	£11,040
Prudential ....Level	£9,525	£10,083	£10,869
Generali ....Level	£9,463	£10,067	£10,906

Source: Annuity Direct (071 375 1175)

Compiled by: Morag Preston

CGT ALLOWANCES – DECEMBER '94

The indexed rise for calculating the indexation allowance on assets disposed of in December 1994

Month purchased	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988
January	-	0.767	0.681	0.601	0.517	0.460	0.413
February	-	0.760	0.674	0.588	0.511	0.454	0.408
March	0.838	0.757	0.669	0.573	0.509	0.451	0.402
April	0.802	0.732	0.647	0.540	0.495	0.434	0.380
May	0.789	0.725	0.641	0.533	0.492	0.433	0.375
June	0.784	0.721	0.637	0.530	0.493	0.433	0.370
July	0.783	0.712	0.639	0.533	0.497	0.434	0.368
August	0.783	0.704	0.623	0.529	0.493	0.430	0.353
September	0.784	0.697	0.620	0.530	0.485	0.426	0.347
October	0.775	0.691	0.610	0.527	0.483	0.419	0.333
November	0.766	0.685	0.605	0.522	0.470	0.412	0.327
December	0.769	0.680	0.607	0.520	0.466	0.413	0.324

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
January	0.315	0.222	0.121	0.077	0.059	0.033
February	0.306	0.215	0.115	0.071	0.052	0.027
March	0.300	0.203	0.111	0.068	0.048	0.025
April	0.277	0.167	0.097	0.052	0.038	0.012
May	0.270	0.157	0.094	0.048	0.035	0.009
June	0.265	0.152	0.089	0.048	0.035	0.009
July	0.264	0.151	0.091	0.052	0.038	0.014
August	0.261	0.140	0.089	0.051	0.033	0.009
September	0.252	0.129	0.085	0.047	0.029	0.007
October	0.243	0.120	0.081	0.044	0.030	0.006
November	0.232	0.123	0.077	0.045	0.031	0.005
December	0.229	0.124	0.076	0.049	0.029	-

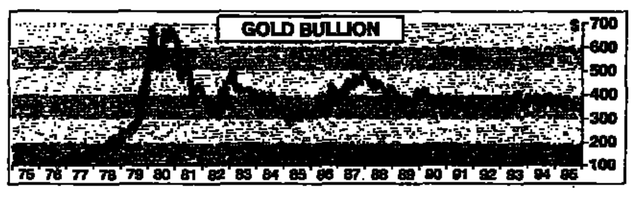
The RI month for disposals by individuals on or after April 6, 1985 (April 1, 1985 for companies) is the month in which the allowable expenditure was incurred, or March 1982 where the expenditure was incurred before that month.

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	89.25	10.499	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	113.25	10.265	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	126.00	10.317	100.20	10,000
Bristol & West	13.375%	127.50	10.490	100.34	1,000
Britannia	13.000%	124.00	10.484	100.42	1,000
Cheltenham & Glos	11.750%	116.00	10.129	100.96	50,000
Coventry	12.125%	114.50	10.574	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	103.00	11.408	100.25	10,000
Halifax	8.750%	87.50	10.000	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	119.00	10.084	100.28	50,000
Leeds Permanent	13.625%	135.00	10.093	100.00	50,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	126.50	10.573	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	102.125	10.526	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	120.75	10.455	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	120.75	10.455	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	121.75	10.575	100.48	1,000

FLOATING RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
First National	8.9875%	101.00	100.00	1,000
Cheshire	8.8854%	103.00	100.00	1,000

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares
Source. Hoare Govett - 0171 601 0101



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Bradford & Bingley 0800 252 993	3.15	£15k+	75	5.3% discount for 12 months
Britannia 0800 526350	3.15	£40k+	80	5.29% discount to 2.1.96
Northern Rock 0800 591 500	2.49	to £150k	90	6.05% discount to 1.5.96
Banks				
Lloyds Local branch	3.35	£60k+	80	4.75% discount for 1 year
NatWest Home Loans 0121 234 8013	3.35	£120k+	75	4.75% discount for 1 year

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Hinckley & Rugby 0455 251234	1.50	to £150k	60	Rate fixed to 1.11.95
Skipton 0800 590545	2.24	to £250k	95	6% disc-5 mnth 1.75% disc-1 yr
Yorkshire 01274 740740	1.70	£25-£150k	95	Rate fixed to 1.10.95
Banks				
NatWest Home Loans 0121 234 3000	3.35	£120k+	75	Rate fixed for 1 year
NYPO - MSL 0344 394095	2.90	£15,001-£500k+	90	Rated fixed to 1.3.96

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Ntnl & Prvncl 0800 808080	1.75	neg	90	Rate fixed to 1.10.95
Scarborough 0800 590547	1.50	£35-£150k	95	6.95%-6 months 2% for 1 year
Skipton 0800 590545	2.24	to £150k	95	6%-5 months then 1.75% for 1 year
Banks				
B of Scotland 0132 556 8555	4.19	£150-250k	90	3.25% discount to 31.1.96
Lloyds Local Branch	3.35	£60K+	95	4.75% discount for 1 year

Larger lenders, larger loans and first-time buyers tables supplied by Blay's Guides Ltd. Further information: Blay's Guides, 01753 880482.

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AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE Aegon House, Lanark Square, London E14 9XS 071 538 8800				
Balanced	447.50	473.60	+ 5.30	..
UK Equity	561.20	593.90	+ 7.40	...
Property	486.10	514.40	+ 0.60	...
Fixed Interest	311.50	329.70	+ 3.30	...
Money	252.20	266.90	- 0.10	...
International	366.10	387.50	+ 7.00	...
ABBEY LIFE Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 0202 292373				
Property Fd Inc	279.10	293.80	+ 0.10	..
-do- Acc	527.20	555.00	+ 0.10	...
Equity Fd Inc	161.60	170.20	+ 1.80	0.0
-do- Acc	215.90	226.90	+ 2.40	0.0
Selective Fd	481.90	507.30	+ 1.60	0.0
Money Fd	379.60	399.80	+ 0.20	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	411.00	432.70	...	...
Equity Ser 4	208.70	219.70	+ 1.70	..
Man Ser 4	643.70	677.60	+ 5.20	0.0
Conv Ser 4	330.30	347.70	+ 0.20	...
Money Ser 4	330.00	347.40	+ 0.20	..
Fixed Int Ser 4	341.90	359.90	+ 1.20	0.0
American Ser 4	476.30	501.40	+ 8.10	0.0
High Inc Ser 4	653.80	688.30	+ 3.30	0.0
Indexed Inv Ser 4	206.80	217.70	- 0.20	0.0
Japan Ser 4	340.50	358.50	+ 5.50	0.0
ALBANY LIFE 3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ 0707 42311				
Equity Fd Acc	£14.78	£15.55	+13.80	...
European Fd Acc	355.90	374.60	+ 3.90	...
Fixed Int Acc	496.80	522.90	- 3.10	..
Gtd Money Acc	336.50	354.20	- 0.30	...
Intl Managed Acc	572.70	602.80	+ 4.20	...
Int Fxd Int Acc	315.30	331.80	- 2.30	...
Japan Fund	248.50	261.50	- 2.00	...
N American Acc	307.10	323.30	+ 0.40	...
Prop Fd Acc	446.60	470.10	+ 0.50	...
Multiple Inv Acc	987.20	£10.39	+ 8.90	..
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE Swindon SN1 1EL 0793 514514				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	374.50	394.30	+ 0.30	...
Equity Acc	£13.44	£14.15	+10.60	...
Property Acc	584.30	615.10	+ 0.50	...
Far East Acc	287.90	303.10	+ 3.60	..
Managed Capital	508.00	534.80	+ 3.30	.
-do- Acc	£10.45	£11.00	+ 6.90	...
Overseas Acc	889.90	936.80	+ 5.30	...
Gilt Edged Acc	474.20	499.20	+ 0.80	...
Amer Equity Acc	744.80	784.00	+ 8.40	...
Amer Man Acc	318.40	335.20	+ 1.50	..
Amer Prop Acc	116.00	122.20	+ 1.30	..
AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks 0494 463463				
Reserve Ser 6	157.50	165.70	+ 0.20	..
Balced Ser 6	687.80	723.90	+ 6.60	...
Opportunity Ser 6	154.30	162.40	+ 1.90	...
Distribution Ser 6	98.20	103.30	+ 0.20	6.97
UK Equities Ser 6	932.20	981.20	+ 6.50	..
Higher Inc Ser 6	£10.01	£10.53	+ 1.90	...
North Amer Ser 6	433.40	456.20	+ 8.70	...
Far East Ser 6	533.90	561.90	+14.10	...
Europe Ser 6	356.00	374.70	+ 6.40	...
Intnl Ser 6	532.10	560.10	+10.80	...
Property Ser 6	578.20	608.60	- 1.20	...
Fixed Int Ser 6	428.30	450.70	- 0.90	...
Ind-Lnkd Sec S6	176.80	186.10	+ 0.10	...
Gteed Dep Ser 6	297.70	313.30	+ 0.10	..
BARCLAYS LIFE 252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB 081 534 5544				
Equity Acc	805.30	847.70	+ 6.30	...
-do- Initial	528.80	556.70	+ 4.10	...
Gilt Edged Acc	374.20	393.90	+ 2.30	..
-do- Initial	247.90	261.00	+ 1.50	..
International Acc	378.60	398.60	+ 2.50	...
-do- Initial	249.20	262.40	+ 1.70	..
Managed Acc	501.80	528.30	+ 3.20	...
-do- Initial	331.50	349.00	+ 2.10	...
Money Acc	292.60	308.00	+ 0.20	...
Property Acc	305.10	321.20	- 1.80	...
-do- Initial	200.50	211.10	- 1.40	...
America Acc	262.40	276.30	- 2.80	...
Australia Acc	197.30	207.70	- 2.90	...
Financial Acc	308.80	325.10	+ 1.20	...
500 Accum	419.20	441.30	- 0.10	...
Japan Genl Acc	316.60	333.30	- 0.90	...
Income Acc	491.70	517.60	+ 3.80	...
Leisure Acc	218.10	229.60	+ 0.30	...
Special Sits Acc	224.80	236.70	+ 1.30	...
Univ Tech Acc	148.30	156.20	+ 1.60	..
BLACK HORSE LIFE Mountbatten House, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF 0634 834000				
The Managed Fd	768.11	768.11	+ 4.01	...
Income Fund	735.74	774.47	- 0.47	.
Extra Income	666.67	701.76	+ 0.41	..
Worldwide Gth	454.73	478.67	- 0.46	..
Balanced Fund	637.22	670.76	+ 3.31	...
Smllr Cos Recov	656.96	691.54	- 4.73	...
N Amer & Genrl	332.71	350.23	+ 1.00	...
Pacific Basin	364.70	383.90	+ 6.91	...
German Growth	227.30	239.27	+ 0.47	..
Japan Growth	168.74	177.63	+ 0.61	...
The UK Gth Fd	201.11	211.70	+ 1.01	..
Contl Euro Gth	126.81	133.49	- 0.95	..
Property Fund	413.96	435.75	+ 0.23	..
Fixed Interest	299.87	315.66	+ 3.99	...
Cash Fund	284.56	299.54	+ 0.23	..
Managed Inv	465.08	489.56	+ 2.51	...
Nth Amer Recov	220.33	231.93	- 1.46	...
Abtrust Fund				
Managed Grth	485.38	510.93	+ 0.81	...
BRITANNIA LIFE ASSURANCE PO Box 37, Greenock, Renfrewshire 0475 868000				
Measured Perf	152.80	161.60	+ 1.30	...
Performance Plus	149.50	158.20	+ 1.30	...
With Profit Perf	172.90	182.90	+ 0.20	..
UK Opportunity	169.50	179.30	+ 1.20	...
Euro Opportunity	218.70	231.40	+ 3.20	...
North Amer Opp	157.90	167.00	+ 0.80	...
Far East Opp	170.50	180.40	+ 2.60	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	126.30	133.00		
Gth Prop Ser 2	183.80	194.40	+ 0.40	...
Fixed Int	184.00	194.70	+ 1.50	...
Cash	157.30	166.40	+ 0.10	...
Overseas	172.30	182.30	+ 1.50	...
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	315.80	332.50	+ 3.10	...
UK Equity	522.10	549.60	+ 2.50	...
Property	285.30	300.40	- 0.30	...
Money Market	253.30	266.70	- 0.20	...
Fixed Interest	295.80	311.40	+ 0.20	...
Japan	348.20	366.60	- 0.30	...
North America	143.70	151.30	+ 0.80	...
International	268.30	282.50	- 2.40	...
European	282.20	297.10	+ 4.30	...
Far East	119.80	126.20	+ 2.00	...
CANADA LIFE 2-6 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA 0707 51122				
Equity Growth	£271.80	...	...	...
Managed	313.40	329.90	- 1.70	...
Property	237.40	249.90	+ 0.10	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	236.40	248.90	+ 1.90	...
Equity	347.20	365.50	+ 1.70	...
Cash	217.40	228.90	- 0.30	...
CLife Euro Mgd	357.70	376.60	+ 2.10	...
CLife Intl Fd	334.90	352.60	+ 3.00	...
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU. 0908 606101				
Property Fund	174.20	183.40	- 1.60	...
Managed Fund	560.10	598.00	- 3.70	...
Equity Fund	324.30	341.40	+ 1.90	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0272 290566				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	273.40	287.80	+ 2.40	...
Ruby	163.30	171.90	+ 1.90	...
Emerald	142.30	149.80	+ 0.80	...
Equity	310.60	327.00	+ 1.80	...
Property	232.00	244.30	+ 0.60	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	197.50	207.90	+ 0.20	...
Indexed Secs	164.00	172.70	+ 0.40	...
Cash	188.20	198.20	+ 0.20	...
Nth American	211.90	223.10	+ 2.90	...
Far East	291.40	306.80	+ 7.00	...
International	228.00	240.00	- 3.80	...
Special Sits	311.60	328.10	...	...
Intl Income	276.00	290.60	+ 0.60	..
American Inc	184.40	194.20	+ 2.10	...
European	310.70	327.10	+ 5.20	..
Japanese	138.00	145.30	- 1.80	...
SE Asia	325.60	342.80	-10.50	...
With Profits Reg	166.40	175.20	+ 0.20	...
-do- Spec	166.40	175.20	+ 0.20	...
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	304.80	320.90	+ 2.60	...
Equity	362.80	381.90	+ 1.80	...
Property	215.00	226.40	+ 0.50	..
Gilt & Fixed Int	245.90	258.90	- 0.30	...
Index Linked	173.40	182.60	+ 1.60	...
Cash	252.00	265.30	+ 1.50	...
Nth American	256.30	269.80	+ 4.70	...
Far East Acc	292.50	307.90	+ 6.20	...
International Acc	285.00	300.10	+ 6.10	...
Special Sits	445.50	469.00	+ 2.20	...
European Flex	424.50	446.90	+ 5.00	...
COLONIAL MUTUAL GROUP Colonial Mutual House, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4YY. 0634 890 000				
(Units):Key	£210.40	...	...	...
-do- Pacemaker	£302.52	...	...	...
-do- Cash	204.04	214.75	+ 0.10	...
-do- Equity	514.52	541.60	+ 4.21	..
-do- Fxd Int	347.67	365.97	+ 1.29	...
-do- Managed	370.54	390.97	+ 3.83	...
-do- Property	294.31	309.98	+ 1.21	...
(Pens): Cash Cap	208.19	219.16	+ 0.11	...
-do- Cash Inv	306.34	322.47	+ 0.59	...
-do- Equity Cap	£13.22	£13.92	-17.05	...
-do- Equity Inv	£19.46	£20.48	-22.31	...
-do- Fixed Cap	378.46	398.39	+ 2.55	...
-do- Fixed Inv	556.89	586.21	+ 4.54	...
-do- Index Cap	194.70	204.96	+ 0.30	...
-do- Index Inv	286.49	301.58	+ 0.97	...
Mngd Cap	531.83	559.83	- 4.22	...
Mngd Inv	782.55	823.75	- 5.10	...
COMMERCIAL UNION St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3. 071 283 7500				
Var Ann Acc (5)	1653.80	...	+ 5.89	...
Var Ann (5)	486.44	..	+ 0.57	...
Prime: Managed	383.80	404.10	+ 3.90	...
Prime: UK Equity	461.40	485.70	+ 3.50	...
Prime: Intl Equity	286.50	301.60	+ 5.60	...
Prime: Property	253.40	266.80	- 0.10	...
Prime Fxd Int	226.00	237.90	- 0.70	...
Prime Index-Lnk	165.40	174.20	+ 0.10	...
Prime: Cash	206.60	217.50	.	...
CONFEDERATION LIFE Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN 0438 744840				
Managed Fund	£10.86	£11.43	-22.40	0.0
Equity Fund	£15.59	£16.41	-39.60	...
CROWN FINANCIAL Crown House, Woking GU21 1XW 0483 715033				
Life Mangd Acc	569.70	599.60	+ 5.20	...
Life Fxd Int Acc	364.70	383.80	+ 2.20	...
Life Equity Acc	792.30	833.90	+ 4.30	...
Life Money Acc	302.50	318.40	+ 0.20	...
Life Inv Tst Acc	756.30	796.10	+ 3.10	...
Life Intl Acc	474.90	499.80	+ 8.80	...
Life High Inc Acc	765.50	805.70	+ 2.20	...
Life Property Acc	259.30	272.90	- 0.90	...
Crown Brit Inv A	£13.10	...	...	...
Brewin Equity	647.80	681.80	+ 4.80	...
EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE Bath Road, Cheltenham, Gloucester GL53 7LQ. 0242 221311				
Secure Fund	176.40	185.70	+ 0.10	...
Managed Fund	228.00	240.00	+ 2.30	...
-do- Series 2	149.40	157.30	+ 1.50	...
Adventurous Fd	180.70	190.30	+ 2.70	...
-do- Series 2	138.50	145.80	+ 2.00	...
Equity Mngd Fd	230.30	242.50	+ 3.00	...
-do- Series 2	152.50	160.60	+ 2.00	...
UK Pref Fxd Int	137.70	145.00	...	...
UK Equity Fund	153.40	161.50	+ 1.10	...
Property Fund	119.90	126.30	- 0.20	...
Envrnmntl Opps	154.10	162.30	- 0.30	...
Euro Fund	179.90	189.40	+ 2.50	...
North Amer Fd	180.90	190.50	- 1.40	...
Oriental Ops	210.50	221.60	+ 8.80	...
Japanese Fund	119.20	125.50	+ 0.20	...
Bd & West Life	124.70	131.30	+ 0.20	...
Bd & West Pen	140.80	148.30	+ 0.20	...
EAGLE STAR/MIDLAND 60 St Mary Axe, London EC3. 071 929 1111				
Eagle/Mid Uts	246.20	255.10	+ 1.20	3.59
FRIENDS' PROVIDENT Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH 0722 413366				
Managed (Mixed)	291.80	307.20	- 2.60	...
UK Equity	385.70	406.00	+ 3.00	...
Stewardship	326.10	343.30	+ 0.10	...
Overseas Equity	266.60	280.70	+ 4.60	...
North American	143.40	151.00	+ 2.40	...
Pacific Basin	152.30	160.40	+ 4.60	...
European	210.90	222.00	+ 3.00	...
Property	204.30	215.10	- 1.70	...
Fixed Interest	225.90	237.80	+ 0.80	...
Index Linked	163.40	172.00	+ 0.10	...
Cash	201.60	212.30	+ 0.20	...
FP Life Assurance ex NM				
Fixed Interest	521.20	548.60	+ 1.80	...
Managed	670.30	705.50	+ 4.90	...
Deposit	345.90	364.10	+ 0.50	...
Property	486.30	511.80	- 2.10	...
American	408.20	429.60	- 7.00	...
Australian	482.80	508.20	- 2.40	...
European	514.80	541.80	+ 4.70	...
Income Acc	724.00	762.10	+ 2.60	...
-do- Dist	419.30	441.40	+ 2.00	4.34
International	294.50	310.00	- 0.30	...
Japan Smaller	493.00	518.90	- 4.70	...
Singapore & Mal	366.00	385.20	+16.40	...
Smaller Cos	390.10	410.60	- 2.70	...
Tokyo Fund	646.80	680.80	+ 9.30	...
UK Equity	563.20	592.80	+ 3.70	...
CCM Vangd Mg	711.90	749.30	- 2.60	...
GT UNIT MANAGERS LTD Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, London EC2Y 5AS. 071 710 4567				
GT Plan Far East	307.80	324.10	+ 3.50	...
GT Plan Wwide	470.60	495.40	+ 4.10	...
GAN LIFE & PENSIONS Gan House, Harlow, Essex CM20 2EW. 0279 626262				
Portfolio Acc	660.10	660.10	+ 7.10	...
-do- Inv A	660.00	694.90	+ 7.60	...
UK Equity	391.10	411.80	+ 3.20	...
Gilt Plus	197.70	208.20	+ 1.00	...
Managed	292.90	308.40	+ 3.40	...
GENERAL ACCIDENT 2 Rougier Street, York YO1 1HR. 0904 628932				
Managed	201.30	211.70	+ 1.70	...
Unitised Profit	138.00	145.20	+ 0.20	...
UK Equity	266.50	280.50	+ 1.80	...
Fixed Int	188.10	197.90	+ 0.20	...
Index-Linked	159.90	168.20	- 0.10	...
Cash Deposit	175.00	184.20	+ 0.10	...
Property	192.70	202.80	- 1.00	...
International	164.90	173.50	+ 2.80	...
American	154.50	162.50	+ 1.50	...
Japan	232.20	244.30	+ 3.60	...
Japan Smllr Cos	237.80	250.20	+ 3.70	...
European	177.20	186.50	+ 1.70	...
Pacific Fund	264.30	278.10	+ 6.20	...
Conv Life	120.80	127.00	+ 0.90	...
For General Portfolio see Gan				
GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE Royal Exchange London EC3. 071 283 7101				
Ast Prop Bds	818.50	852.60	- 0.60	...
Managed Initial	432.40	455.20	- 2.20	...
-do- Acc	618.90	651.50	- 3.40	...
Equity Initial	640.80	674.50	- 2.30	...
-do- Acc	917.20	965.50	- 3.80	...
Fixed Int Initial	429.20	451.80	- 0.70	...
-do- Acc	614.40	646.70	- 1.30	...
Ind Initial	428.70	451.30	+ 5.80	...
-do- Acc	613.60	645.90	+ 8.50	...
Nth Amer Initial	168.30	177.10	+ 2.70	...
-do- Acc	219.20	230.70	+ 3.60	...
Pacific Initial	229.60	241.70	+ 6.80	...
-do- Acc	296.30	311.90	+ 8.90	...
Property Initial	180.10	189.50	- 1.00	...
-do- Acc	257.70	271.20	- 0.90	...
Index-Lnkd Initl	154.50	162.70	..	...
-do- Acc	201.30	211.90	+ 0.10	...
Deposit Initial	197.70	208.10	+ 0.10	...
-do- Acc	282.90	297.80	+ 0.20	...
Euro Initial	103.10	108.50	+ 0.80	...
-do- Acc	124.10	130.60	+ 1.00	...
HALIFAX LIFE LTD PO Box 285, York YO1 1YB 01904 611110				
Life Funds				
Foundation	23.98	25.24	+ 0.24	...
Balanced	24.03	25.34	+ 0.34	...
Opportunity	23.98	25.24	+ 0.24	...
Deposit	23.76	25.01	+ 0.01	...
Pension Funds				
Foundation	23.95	25.21	+ 0.21	...
Balanced	24.07	25.34	+ 0.34	...
Opportunity	23.96	25.22	+ 0.22	...
Deposit	23.76	25.01	+ 0.01	...
HAMBRO GUARDIAN ASSURANCE Kingsgate, 1 King Edward Road, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4HG. 0277 200939				
Managed	158.20	166.50	+ 1.50	...
-do- Pens	190.40	203.30	+ 1.90	...
UK Equity	161.50	170.00	+ 1.70	...
-do- Pens	182.10	191.60	+ 2.40	...
International	135.70	142.80	+ 1.10	...
-do- Pens	147.70	155.40	+ 1.30	...
Deposit	140.40	147.70	+ 0.10	...
-do- Pens	166.40	175.10	+ 0.20	...
HENDERSON ADMINISTRATION 3 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PA 071 638 5757				
UK Equity Fd	338.60	360.30	+ 2.00	...
North America	335.60	357.10	- 6.40	...
Far East Fund	594.70	632.70	+ 9.20	...
Global Managed	447.30	475.90	+ 4.00	...
Deposit Fund	230.40	242.60	+ 0.30	...
Prime Residential	136.60	143.80	...	...
European Fund	254.80	271.10	+ 2.70	...
Fixed Interest	60.80	64.70	+ 0.50	...
HILL SAMUEL LIFE NLA Tower, Addiscombe Road, Croydon 081 686 4355				
Security Fund	485.60	513.90	+ 0.50	...
British Fund	500.20	529.40	+ 2.20	...
International	510.80	540.60	+10.00	...
Dollar Fund	364.30	385.60	+ 9.00	...
Capital Fund	454.70	481.20	+ 5.60	...
Income Fund	657.20	695.50	- 2.00	...
Property Series A	459.70	486.50	- 2.50	4.50
Property Units	798.80	796.80	- 3.80	...
Financial Fund	536.50	567.80	+ 9.20	...
Managed Ser A	516.90	547.00	+ 4.40	...
Managed Units	925.60	974.40	+ 8.00	...
High Yield Fund	622.10	658.40	- 3.10	...
Money Series A	290.20	307.10	+ 0.20	...
Money Units	384.70	405.20	+ 0.30	...
Equity Fund	582.60	616.60	+ 5.90	...
Fixed Interest	356.10	376.90	- 0.20	...
Indexed Secs	180.70	191.30	+ 0.20	...
European Fund	685.00	724.90	+ 6.40	...
Natural Res	278.80	295.10	- 4.30	...
Far East Fund	617.60	653.60	+11.40	...
Smaller Cos	464.00	491.10	+ 1.40	...
Special Sits	425.50	450.30	+ 4.60	...
Man Currency	262.30	277.60	+ 1.40	...
Japanese Tech	270.80	286.60	- 0.90	...
US Smaller Cos	233.20	246.80	+ 4.30	...
IRISH LIFE ASSURANCE Irish Life Centre, Victoria Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 5TF. 0727 48181				
Global Managed	537.70	566.00	+ 5.50	...
Global Property	292.30	307.70	+ 0.10	...
Global Fixed Int	500.50	526.80	+ 7.60	...
Global Equity	572.80	602.90	+ 5.80	...
Global Cash	214.70	226.00	+ 0.10	...
LAURENTIAN LIFE Barnwood, Gloucester GL4 7RZ 0452 371371				
Property	490.60	516.40	+ 3.90	...
Managed	396.00	416.80	+ 3.10	...
American	385.00	405.20	+ 8.30	...
UK Equity Fd	423.70	445.90	+ 1.30	...
Japan	198.80	209.20	+ 4.30	...
Index-Lkd	179.40	188.80	+ 0.60	...
High Yield	814.00	856.80	- 0.40	...
Money	405.30	426.60	+ 1.00	...
International	375.30	395.00	+ 6.00	...
Henderson Active	203.10	213.70	+ 2.20	...
Perpetual Active	304.30	320.30	+ 3.90	...
Growth Acc	620.60	653.20	- 4.60	...
Gilt Edged	421.70	443.80	+ 4.10	...
European	152.30	160.30	+ 1.10	...
Far East	188.40	198.80	+ 5.60	...
LEGAL & GENERAL UNIT ASSURANCE 2 Montefiore Road, Hove, Sussex BN3 1SE 0273 824000				
B Soc Lnkd Init	135.00	142.30	...	...
-do- Acc	187.40	197.30	+ 0.10	...
Brit Opps Int	135.40	142.60	- 0.20	...
-do- Acc	168.90	177.80	+ 0.10	...
Cash Initial	167.20	176.00	- 0.50	...
-do- Acc	289.20	304.50	...	...
Equity Initial	619.50	652.20	+ 1.50	...
-do- Acc	£10.71	£11.28	+ 5.40	...
Fixed Initial	333.20	350.80	+ 0.10	...
-do- Acc	576.40	606.80	+ 1.80	...
Index-Lnkd Gilt	129.00	135.80	- 0.40	...
-do- Acc	190.50	200.60	+ 0.10	...
Intl Initial	311.70	328.20	+ 1.20	...
-do- Acc	531.00	559.00	+ 3.50	...
Managed Initial	452.60	476.50	+ 0.90	...
-do- Acc	782.90	824.20	+ 3.40	...
Property Initial	218.40	229.90	- 0.80	...
-do- Acc	377.90	397.80	- 0.10	...
LINCOLN NATIONAL 1 Olympic Way, Wembley, Middx HA9 0NB 081 902 8876				
Equity Units	£125.71	...	+ 0.31	...
Property Units	£27.25	...	+ 0.01	...
Bal Bd Exec Unit	£64.30	£67.69	+ 0.10	...
2nd Equity Acc	604.30	636.10	+ 1.50	...
2nd High Inc Ac	587.60	618.50	+ 0.70	...
2nd Property Acc	248.10	261.20	+ 0.10	...
2nd Mngd 2 Acc	178.50	187.90	- 0.80	...
2nd Mngd 3 Acc	451.70	475.50	+ 0.70	...
2nd Mngd 4 Acc	222.60	234.40	+ 0.40	...
2nd Deposit Acc	284.30	299.30	+ 0.10	...
2nd Gilt Acc	298.70	314.50	+ 3.00	...
2nd Amer Acc	615.50	647.90	- 3.50	...
2nd Intl Mny Acc	260.80	274.50	+ 1.50	...
2nd Index Acc	203.20	213.90	+ 1.60	...
2nd Far East Acc	425.00	447.40	+ 3.00	...
2nd Global Acc	160.00	168.40	+ 0.50	...
2nd Euro Acc	157.00	165.20	...	...
2nd Japan Acc	188.30	198.20	+ 1.80	...
2nd Intl Cr Bd Acc	159.60	168.10	+ 1.70	...
2nd Cap Gth Acc	123.50	130.00	- 0.10	...
LONDON LIFE 100 Temple Street, Bristol BS1 6EA 0272 279179				
Equity	£683.10	...	+ 6.10	...
Fixed Interest	£410.90	...	+ 2.30	...
Property	£422.00	...	+ 4.90	...
Deposit	£294.00	...	+ 0.30	...
Mixed	£583.80	...	+ 5.70	...
Indexed Stock	£207.40	...	+ 1.00	...
International	£282.00	...	+ 5.30	...
Equity A	£204.90	...	+ 1.40	...
Fixed Int A	£182.30	...	+ 1.00	...
Property A	£185.50	...	+ 2.20	...
Deposit A	£172.80	...	- 0.20	...
Mixed A	£191.90	...	+ 1.90	...
Index Stock A	£182.40	...	+ 0.80	...
International A	£176.20	...	+ 3.30	...
Equity P	£727.70	...	+ 6.50	...
Fixed Int P	£541.20	...	+ 2.70	...
Property P	£335.90	...	- 0.30	...
Deposit P	£346.10	...	+ 0.30	...
Mixed P	£535.40	...	+ 6.00	...
Index Stock P	£237.40	...	+ 1.00	...
International P	£326.70	...	+ 7.70	...
LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSURANCE Winslade Park, Exeter EX5 1DS. 0392 283456				
Inv Trust Cap	£550.10	...	+ 0.50	...
-do- Acc	£927.80	..	+ 1.60	...
Property Cap	£150.10	...	+ 0.10	...
-do- Acc	£243.40	...	+ 0.40	...
Fxd Interest Cap	£188.60	...	+ 1.30	...
-do- Acc	£307.60	...	+ 2.30	...
Equity Cap	£297.90	...	+ 0.80	...
-do- Acc	£492.50	...	+ 1.80	...
Internatl Cap	£214.60	...	+ 1.30	...
-do- Acc	£351.30	...	+ 2.30	...
Gtd Deposit Cap	£165.00	...	- 0.10	...
-do- Acc	£265.80	...	+ 0.10	7.20
Flexible Cap	£322.70	...	+ 1.20	...
-do- Acc	£532.00	...	+ 2.50	...
Moneymaker Fd	£410.90	...	+ 1.90	...
Capital Growth	£15.95	...	+ 0.90	...
M & G Victoria Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1FB 0245 266266				
Amer Bond Acc	385.80	405.20	+ 5.30	...
Amer Rec Bond	456.00	478.90	+ 2.80	...
Am Smlr Cos Bd	227.70	239.20	+ 3.50	...
Australasia Bd	205.00	215.30	- 6.20	...
Commodity Bond	293.60	308.40	- 7.10	...
Deposit Bond Acc	361.40	381.70	+ 0.20	...
Equity Bond Acc	£14.47	£15.19	+ 2.60	...
European Bd Acc	366.50	385.00	+ 4.40	...
Extra Yld Bd Acc	700.10	735.20	+ 4.80	...
Far East Bd Acc	288.30	302.80	+11.30	...
Gilt Bond Acc	429.60	451.20	+ 4.30	...
Gold Bond Acc	142.10	149.30	- 1.00	...
High Yield Bond	320.80	336.90	+ 2.10	...
Index-Lnk Gt Bd	202.40	212.70	+ 1.30	...
International Bd	730.40	767.00	+ 5.60	...
Japan Bond Acc	259.00	272.10	- 0.60	...
Japan Sm Cos Ac	254.00	266.80	+ 0.20	...
Managed Bonds	841.20	883.40	+ 8.50	...
Prop Bond Acc	327.50	343.90	+ 1.80	...
Rec Bond Acc	708.50	744.10	+ 1.10	...
MGM ASSURANCE MGM House, Heene Road, Worthing BN11 2DY. 0903 204631				
UK Equity	213.10	224.40	+ 1.50	...
UK Equity Acc	302.30	318.30	+ 2.40	...
Special Sits	87.70	92.40	+ 0.10	...
Special Sits Acc	124.60	131.20	+ 0.30	...
North American	169.10	178.00	+ 2.80	...
N American Acc	240.00	252.70	+ 4.30	...
Pacific Basin	335.70	353.40	+ 5.70	...
Pacific Basin Acc	476.40	501.50	+ 8.40	...
Fixed Interest	273.50	287.90	+ 2.10	...
Fixed Interest Acc	388.60	409.10	+ 3.40	...
Property	177.80	187.20	...	...
Property Acc	252.60	265.90	+ 0.20	...
Deposit	152.00	160.00	...	...
Deposit Acc	216.40	227.80	+ 0.20	...
Managed	246.10	259.10	+ 2.10	...
Managed Acc	321.90	338.90	+ 3.10	...
MANULIFE GROUP St Georges Way, Stevenage, Herts 0438 356101				
Managed Fund	687.60	723.80	+ 4.70	...
Property Fund	545.60	574.30	+ 0.70	...
Equity Fund	873.20	919.20	+ 4.30	...
Gilt Edged Fd	600.30	631.90	+ 2.50	...
Deposit Fund	332.90	350.40	+ 0.20	...
Investment Fd	374.50	393.20	+ 2.10	...
International	519.70	547.00	+ 8.00	...
MERCHANT INVESTORS St Bartholomews House, Lewins Mead Bristol BS1 2NH 0272 266 366				
Property	445.60	469.00	- 4.20	...
UK Equity	338.20	356.00	- 1.70	...
Gilt Edged	556.30	585.50	+ 7.20	...
Interest Fund	388.90	409.30	+ 0.30	...
UK Fund	471.30	496.10	+ 1.90	...
Intl Equity	574.50	604.70	+ 8.50	...
Intl Managed	542.70	571.20	+ 6.20	...
North American	208.60	219.50	+ 1.90	...
Far East	426.50	448.90	+13.40	...
Intl Currency	259.00	272.60	+ 0.60	...
NPI 48 Gracechurch Street, London EC3P 3HH 071 623 4200				
Managed	463.10	487.40	+ 3.80	...
UK Equity	575.40	605.60	+ 3.30	...
Overseas Equity	453.00	476.80	+ 6.90	...
Americas	383.60	403.70	+ 4.70	...
Far East	504.70	531.20	+11.50	...
Property	221.40	233.00	- 2.60	...
Fixed Interest	374.40	394.10	+ 1.10	...
Indexed Gilt	225.80	237.60	+ 0.50	...
Deposit	217.90	229.30	+ 0.20	...
NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY - Ex NUAM Funds PO Box 148, Norwich NR3 1PP 0603 622200				
Managed Fund	£13.61	£14.33	+10.80	...
Eqty Fund	£29.53	£31.08	+16.40	...
Property Fd	578.20	608.60	- 0.50	...
Fixed Int Fd	577.20	607.60	+ 0.90	...
Deposit Fund	351.10	369.60	+ 0.30	...
Intl Fund	231.40	243.60	+ 3.40	...
PEARL ASSURANCE The Pearl Centre, Lynch Wood, Peterborough PE2 6FY. 0733 470 470				
Inv Prop Dist	157.50	165.80	- 0.40	...
Prop Acc (Gross)	331.90	349.40	- 1.00	...
Inv Equity	£11.57	£12.16	+10.80	...
Inv Managed	819.00	862.20	- 6.10	..
Ret Managed	917.70	966.00	+13.00	..
PROVIDENCE CAPITOL 2 Bartley Way, Hook, Hants RG27 9XA 0256 768888				
Equity Fund Acc	274.40	289.50	+ 1.50	..
Fxd Interest Acc	235.90	248.80	+ 1.30	...
International Acc	242.20	255.50	- 1.80	..
Managed Acc	211.30	222.90	+ 1.40	...
Property Acc	227.60	240.10	+ 0.10	..
Money Acc	155.10	163.70	+ 0.20	..
Spec Mkt Acc	218.60	230.60	+ 0.20	..
Japan Equity Acc	120.00	126.60	- 2.30	..
N Amer Acc	148.80	157.00	- 1.60	..
Pacific Acc	147.60	155.90	+ 3.90	..
European Acc	184.00	194.10	+ 1.60	..
PROVIDENT MUTUAL William Road, Hitchin, Herts SG4 0LP 0438 739000				
Managed Ord	457.10	481.20	+ 4.60	...
Managed Initial	306.60	322.70	+ 2.80	..
Equity Ord	687.00	723.20	+ 4.70	..
Equity Init	460.80	485.10	+ 2.90	...
I-Linked Gilt Ord	195.70	206.00	+ 0.40	..
I-Linked Gilt Init	137.10	144.30	+ 0.20	..
Oseas Equity Ord	360.40	379.40	+ 6.90	..
Oseas Equity Init	241.70	254.40	+ 4.40	..
Property Ord	283.80	298.70	- 0.20	..
Property Init	190.30	200.30	- 0.30	..
Fixed Int Ord	273.80	288.20	+ 0.90	..
Fixed Int Init	183.70	193.40	+ 0.70	..
Deposit Ord	207.40	218.30	+ 0.10	..
Deposit Initial	139.10	146.40	...	...
PRUDENTIAL Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH 071 405 9222				
Managed	332.60	336.10	+ 1.50	...
PRUDENTIAL INDIVIDUAL LIFE FUNDS 1 Stephen Street, London W1P 2AP 071 548 3278				
Managed Fund	760.70	800.80	+ 7.20	..
Equity Fund	£14.08	£14.82	+ 5.30	..
Intl Fund	596.10	627.50	+13.00	..
Fixed Interest	551.60	580.70	- 1.30	..
Property Fund	483.20	508.70	- 1.90	..
Cash Fund	366.70	386.00	+ 0.20	..
Pacific Basin	334.90	352.60	+10.30	..
N American Fd	240.60	253.30	+ 6.60	..
Euro Fund	261.70	275.50	+ 4.50	..
Balanced Fund	149.70	157.60	+ 1.60	..
Strategic Fund	156.90	165.20	+ 2.70	..
ROYAL HERITAGE LIFE ASSURANCE Peterborough Business Park, Peterborough PE2 6GG. 0733 390000				
Mult Grow (45)	£729.60	...	...	...
-do- Acc	438.10	461.20	..	..
Op Prop	508.70	535.50	..	..
Op Equity	911.20	959.20	+ 9.00	..
Op High Yield	569.90	599.90	+ 3.00	..
Op Managed	784.50	825.90	+ 8.40	..
Op Deposit	394.90	415.70	..	..
Inc Gth	282.50	297.40	+ 1.10	..
Japan Smlr	248.30	261.40	- 2.10	..
Managed Gth	241.90	254.70	- 2.30	..
Gilt	78.40	82.60	+ 0.30	..
British	338.10	355.90	- 2.30	..
Global Bond	109.00	114.80	+ 0.90	..
Global (35.34)	157.20	165.50	+ 1.70	..
Gold Share	81.70	86.00	..	..
High Income	281.90	296.80	- 2.30	..
Income	402.70	423.90	- 9.00	..
Japan	413.70	435.50	+12.70	..
UK Smlr Cos	325.40	342.60	- 2.40	..
Mngd Growth	429.10	451.70	+ 1.20	..
ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE New Hall Place, Liverpool L69 3HS 051 239 3000				
Royal Shield Fd	934.50	983.80	+ 8.30	..
Royal Life Unit Linked				
Managed Fund	370.80	390.30	- 3.20	..
Equity Fund	520.50	547.80	+ 4.60	..
Property Fund	338.40	356.20	+ 1.90	..
International	459.40	483.50	- 8.60	..
Pacific Basin	255.30	268.70	+ 5.20	..
United States	248.10	261.10	- 6.40	..
Gilt Fund	358.40	377.20	+ 2.10	..
SAVE & PROSPER 16-22 Western Road, Romford, Essex RM1 3LB. 0708 766966				
Bal Inv Fund	750.40	794.10	+ 4.70	2.44
Deposit Fund (2)	373.20	395.50	+ 0.30	5.21
Gilt Fund	509.20	538.90	+ 5.10	8.42
Global Equity Fd	227.50	240.80	+ 1.60	..
Property Fund (4)	111.60	118.10	..	6.64
AG Bond Fund	142.90	151.30	+ 1.40	..
SCOTTISH AMICABLE 150 St Vincent Street, Glasgow 041 248 2323				
Equity	568.20	598.20	+ 1.00	...
Fixed Interest	361.60	382.80	+ 2.80	...
Index-Linked	191.70	201.80	- 1.10	...
International	441.20	464.50	+ 4.90	...
Property	300.90	316.80	+ 0.30	...
Cash	231.40	243.60	+ 0.20	...
Managed	455.30	479.30	+ 1.90	...
Cap Gteed Bd	109.20	115.00	+ 0.80	...
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE 28 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YF 031 556 9101				
Cash	182.40	192.00	+ 0.14	..
Index-Linked	157.50	165.80	+ 0.30	..
Fixed Interest	170.50	179.50	+ 0.40	..
Mixed	248.60	261.60	+ 2.40	..
UK Equity	233.20	245.50	- 1.60	..
International	250.50	263.70	- 4.60	..
American	247.30	260.30	+ 4.60	..
Japan	227.40	239.40	+ 5.00	..
European	253.70	267.10	+ 3.30	..
Pacific	329.60	347.00	+ 8.80	..
Technology	350.60	369.00	+ 4.60	..
Currncy/Currncy	223.70	235.50	+ 2.20	..
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS 19 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YE 031 225 2211				
Property	226.10	238.10	+ 0.30	...
UK Equity	337.20	355.10	+ 1.40	...
American	238.20	250.90	+ 7.20	...
Pacific	321.80	338.80	+10.20	..
European	460.50	484.80	+ 6.90	..
International	291.90	307.40	+ 6.90	...
Fixed Interest	232.40	244.80	+ 0.50	...
Index Linked	190.50	200.70	+ 0.50	...
Deposit	195.50	205.90	+ 0.20	...
Managed	274.00	288.50	+ 2.70	...
Worldwide	114.10	120.20	+ 3.60	...
Pen Worldwide	120.80	127.20	+ 3.80	...
SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE 109 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5HN 041 248 6321				
Flex Fund (35)	£15.74	£16.23	...	...
Safety Fund	228.80	240.90	+ 0.30	...
Growth Fund	220.70	232.40	- 0.70	...
Opportunity Fd	216.70	228.20	+ 0.40	...
Cash Fund	175.50	184.90	...	...
European Fund	329.90	347.30	- 1.70	...
Gilts & Fxd Int	196.10	206.50	+ 0.40	...
Index-Linked Fd	176.70	186.10	+ 0.20	...
International Fd	269.50	283.70	+ 2.10	...
North American	223.80	235.60	+ 1.20	...
Property Fund	130.20	137.10	- 0.10	...
UK Equity	236.00	248.50	+ 0.60	...
UK Smaller	225.50	237.40	- 0.50	...
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT 6 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA 031 556 9181				
Mixed	256.10	269.70	+ 1.40	...
Equity	263.40	277.40	+ 0.40	...
International	264.30	278.30	+ 1.10	...
Property	234.60	247.00	- 0.30	...
Fixed Interest	217.90	229.50	+ 0.80	...
Index Linked	175.20	184.50	+ 0.50	...
Cash	187.80	197.80	+ 0.10	...
Formerly Prolific				
Bal Gwth Mngd	764.00	812.80	+ 0.90	...
Cash Fund	341.50	359.90	...	...
Property Fund	296.20	312.20	...	...
Equity Fund	872.30	927.90	+ 2.10	...
Fxd Interest Fund	450.30	474.50	+ 3.10	...
International	384.90	409.40	+ 0.80	...
High Income	666.00	708.40	- 1.00	...
Far East	543.60	578.30	+ 5.30	...
North American	507.90	540.40	+ 3.70	...
Special Sits	615.70	655.10	- 0.20	...
Technology	543.60	578.40	- 1.00	...
Extra Income Fd	365.30	388.70	...	...
Gilt Fund	470.50	500.60	+ 2.60	...
European	146.90	156.30	+ 1.30	...
Adventurous Mg	207.10	218.10	+ 0.80	...
Secure Mgd	144.70	152.50	+ 0.30	...
Equity Inc Dist	110.60	116.60	- 0.10	5.04
North American	106.00	111.70	+ 0.20	5.37
SCOTTISH WIDOWS PO Box 902, Edinburgh EH16 5BU 031 655 6000				
Inv Pol 1	902.70	902.70	+ 2.40	...
Inv Pol 2	819.90	863.20	+ 2.10	...
Inv Pol 3	782.80	824.10	+ 1.60	...
Inv Cash	316.80	333.60	+ 0.20	...
Mixed Fund	431.80	454.70	+ 4.10	...
Equity Fund	510.30	537.20	+ 4.90	...
Property Fund	247.40	260.50	- 0.70	...
International Fd	469.40	494.30	+ 7.40	...
Fixed Interest Fd	366.80	386.20	+ 4.40	...
Indexed Stock Fd	192.30	202.50	+ 1.60	...
Cash Fund	229.40	241.50	+ 0.20	...
SKANDIA LIFE Skandia House, Portland Terrace, Southampton SO9 7BX 0703 334411				
Managed Acc	363.80	382.90	+ 3.90	...
Equity Acc	429.60	452.20	+ 3.40	...
International Acc	325.40	342.50	+ 9.80	...
Property	235.30	247.80	+ 0.20	...
STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO 3 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2XZ 031 225 2552				
Cash	270.00	284.30	+ 0.10	...
Equity	972.30	£10.23	+ 5.10	...
European	166.90	175.70	+ 0.50	...
Far East	157.80	166.20	+ 1.40	...
Fixed Interest	387.70	408.20	- 0.60	...
Index Linked	203.30	214.10	- 0.20	...
International	584.40	615.20	+ 3.20	...
Managed	677.90	713.60	+ 3.40	...
Nth American	138.20	145.50	+ 0.10	...
Property	363.80	383.00	+ 0.10	...
Pensions				
Cash	421.10	443.30	+ 0.30	...
Equity	£13.86	£14.59	+ 6.30	...
European	197.10	207.50	+ 0.90	...
Far East	125.40	132.10	+ 1.60	...
Fixed Interest	535.90	564.20	+ 0.80	...
Index Linked	282.80	297.70	- 0.30	...
International	813.40	856.30	+ 5.50	...
Managed	943.90	993.70	+ 4.50	...
Nth American	168.80	177.70	- 0.20	...
Property	497.70	523.90	+ 0.70	...
Stock Exchange	212.40	223.60	+ 1.00	...
SUN ALLIANCE St Mark's Court, Horsham, Sussex 0403 232323				
Managed Fund	634.70	668.20	+ 5.70	...
Equity Fund	827.30	870.90	+ 4.70	...
Fixed Interest Fd	402.70	423.90	+ 0.50	...
Index-Linked Fd	310.00	326.40	+ 0.50	...
Property Fund	526.40	554.20	+ 0.70	...
International Fd	601.20	632.90	+10.90	...
N American Fd	224.20	236.00	+ 3.40	...
Far East Fund	212.90	224.20	+ 5.20	...
Deposit Fund	298.70	314.50	+ 0.20	...
International Bd	£179.63	...	- 0.04	...
Worldwide Bond	150.00	157.90	+ 1.70	...
European	162.60	171.20	+ 2.90	...
Phoenix Assurance				
Wealth Assured	629.00	662.20	+ 6.10	...
Ebor Phoenix Eq	434.10	463.90	..	...
Property Growth				
Property Fund	£607.90	...	+ 0.80	...
-do- Acc	£566.80	...	+ 0.60	...
Agricultural Fd	£827.90	...	+ 0.50	...
-do- Acc	£795.30	...	+ 0.50	...
Abbey Nat Fd	£449.00	...	+ 0.50	...
Abbey Nat Acc	£474.60	...	+ 0.40	...
Investment Fd	£337.70	...	+ 2.90	...
Investment (A)	£324.10	...	+ 2.70	...
Equity	£12.04	...	+ 6.70	...
Equity Acc	£11.53	...	+ 6.40	...
Money Fund	£476.60	...	+ 0.40	..
-do- Acc	£455.50	...	+ 0.40	...
Actuarial Fd	£558.80	...	+ 4.00	...
Gilt-Edged Fd	£377.20	...	+ 0.50	...
-do- Acc	£377.20	...	+ 0.50	...
Retire Annuity	£12.64	...	- 0.40	...
Immed Annuity	£307.50	..	-11.00	...
Bldg Soc Life	£227.70	..	+ 0.20	...
SUN LIFE OF CANADA Basingview, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ Dealing: 0256 841414				
Growth Account	£13.87	...	...	...
Managed Acc	£799.90	...	- 2.10	...
Equity Account	£11.32	...	- 0.60	...
Mngd Fund Acc	367.90	387.20	- 1.10	..
Equity Fund Acc	494.70	520.80	- 0.30	...
Prop Fund Acc	267.10	281.20	- 0.30	...
Fixed Int Fd Acc	299.80	315.60	+ 1.00	...
Money Fund Acc	222.50	234.30	+ 0.20	...
Indx-Lnk Scs Ac	199.40	209.90	+ 0.30	...
Pers Pens Acc	£17.94	..	..	...
Pens Mngd Acc	834.30	878.20	...	...
Pens Guarantee	254.60	268.00	...	..
Pens Equity	316.80	333.40	...	..
Pens Property	304.70	320.70	...	...
Pens Fixed Int	276.60	291.20	...	..
Pens Intl	225.80	237.70	...	..
Pens Money	237.80	250.40	...	...
Pens Indx-Lnkd	189.90	199.90	..	..
SUN LIFE UNIT St James Barton, Bristol BS99 7SL 0272 426911				
Managed Acc	858.40	903.60	+ 5.80	...
Property Acc	308.70	325.00	+ 3.10	...
Equity Acc	£13.90	£14.63	+ 8.40	..
Fixed Int Acc	389.50	410.10	- 0.60	...
Cash Acc	311.30	327.70	+ 0.20	..
Amer Equity Acc	348.40	366.80	- 6.10	..
Japan Acc	288.90	304.20	+ 3.60	..
Pacific Acc	334.00	351.60	+ 4.40	..
Far Eastern Acc	783.70	825.00	+11.90	..
International Acc	558.60	588.10	+ 6.40	..
Distribution Fund	268.70	282.90	+ 0.90	6.19
European	189.40	199.40	+ 2.00	..
Defind Dist	163.80	172.50	+ 0.70	...
TSB LIFE LTD Charlton Place, Andover, Hants SP10 1RE 0264 345678				
Managed Fund	272.40	286.80	+ 1.50	...
Property Fund	230.20	242.40	- 0.20	...
Fixed Interest Fd	219.10	230.70	+ 1.30	..
Money Fund	201.40	212.20	+ 0.20	..
Equity Fund	355.90	374.80	+ 1.90	.
TARGET LIFE The Exchange, 46 High Street, Aylesbury, Bucks. 0296 394000				
Deposit	250.80	264.10	+ 0.20	..
Financial Ser I	43.50	46.70	+ 0.40	..
Fixed Interest	319.60	336.50	+ 0.70	..
Gold	73.20	77.10	- 2.50	..
Managed	585.00	615.90	- 0.40	..
Mngd Growth	184.80	194.70	- 2.70	..
Mngd Opp	295.20	305.60	- 3.10	..
Property	332.20	349.60	...	...
Residential Prop	101.70	107.10	+ 0.10	...
TSB American	183.10	192.80	+ 3.10	...
TSB Brit Gwth	801.20	843.50	+ 4.20	..
TSB European	254.00	267.50	+ 1.70	..
TSB Income	365.30	384.70	- 0.50	...
TSB Intl	390.60	411.30	+ 5.40	...
TSB Intl Inc	273.00	281.50	+ 1.80	..
TSB Pacific	381.00	401.20	+ 7.70	..
TSB Prem Inc	243.90	254.90	+ 1.30	...
WINDSOR LIFE Windsor House, Telford, Shropshire 0952 292929				
Managed Bond	671.20	707.30	+ 4.80	...
Money Fund	319.70	336.50	+ 0.20	...
Equity Fund	571.90	602.60	...	...
Fixed Interest	268.50	282.90	...	...
Property Fund	362.40	381.50	- 3.60	...
Gresham Framlington				
American & Gnrl	550.30	579.90	+ 9.70	
Income	710.00	748.20	+ 1.50	..
International Gth	600.70	633.00	+ 7.20	..
Capital Fund	593.00	624.90	-30.60	...
Recovery Fund	618.30	651.50	+ 8.60	...
Japan & General	252.60	266.20	+ 0.40	
Formerly AEtna				
Life Funds				
Squirrel	18.17	19.13	+ 0.01	..
Bear	18.68	19.66	+ 0.05	..
Owl	19.57	20.60	- 0.06	...
Bull	17.47	18.39	- 0.24	..
Stag	17.85	18.79	- 0.13	..
Gilt Edged	18.13	19.08	- 0.19	...
Deposit	15.90	16.74	+ 0.01	...
Pensions				
Squirrel	24.70	26.00	+ 0.02	..
Bear	25.64	26.99	+ 0.08	..
Owl	26.19	27.57	- 0.09	..
Bull	22.32	23.49	- 0.42	..
Stag	21.77	22.92	- 0.15	..
Gilt Edged	22.83	24.03	+ 0.24	..
Deposit	20.57	21.65	+ 0.02	..
Pre 1982 Series				
3-Way Fund	565.93	...	- 7.49	...
1982 Series				
UK Equity	321.67	338.60	- 0.49	..
N Amer Equity	265.17	279.13	- 0.86	..
Far East Equity	347.11	365.38	- 3.53	...
Fixed	285.66	300.68	+ 3.92	...
Cash Deposit	206.15	217.00	+ 0.14	...
Property	152.76	160.80	- 0.92	...
Special Opp	330.39	347.78	+ 0.65	...
Managed	299.21	314.96	- 4.19	..
Index-Linked Fd	186.49	196.31	+ 1.83	..

Equities end on a high note

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
523	380½	Abbey Nat	431	+ 6	4.5	14.5
314	233	Allied Irish	264	+ 5	4.8	10.1
278¾	171	Aus Nz Z	210		5.7	-
3300	2462½	Bank America	2793¾	- 19¼		
247	172½	Bank Scotland	207	- 1	3.2	11.7
640	497	Barclays	591	- 2	3.5	14.4
319	246	Bk of Ireland	308	- 5	4.7	8.9
2912½	2262½	Citicorp	2587½	+ 50		
385½	203	Close Bros	323		...	...
£150½	£121½	Commerzbk	£133½	+ 2¼	4.2	10.1
1298¾	993¾	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1134¾	- 3¼	6.3	-
£344¾	£270¾	Deutsche Bk	£294¾	+ 375	0.5	...
1315¾	734½	Espirito Santo	765¾	- 31¼	2.3	
90	57	First Nat Fint	68		5.0	3.8
1549¾	1152½	Fuji Bank Y	1363¾	+ 8¾	2.8	43.4
473	309	Hambros	237		0.4	-
1113	589	HSBC	652	+ 18	7.9	14.6
713	578	HSBC Hk	639½	+ 17½	4.7	9.4
443	393	Joseph (L)	393		4.8	9.3
693	424	Kleinwort Ben	612	- 1	5.6	11.4
660	519	Lloyds	560	- 5	3.9	10.9
620¾	472	Nat Aust Bk	503		5.2	10.8
622	421	Nat West	496	+ ½	7.7	-
3300	2100	Ottoman Bank	2150		4.9	9.7
79	53	Rea Bros	64		6.8	-
528	373½	Ryl Bk Scott	398	+ 6	1.9	17.9
1574	1050	Schroders	1485	+ 2	4.3	11.4
1458	1043	Schroders N/V	1335	+ 2	1.6	73.6
114	75	Singer & Fried	85		1.7	12.2
359¼	223	Stand Chart	264	+ 3	4.6	10.9
291	197	TSB	252	- 3½	3.0	9.1
1012	569	Warburg SG	761	+ 9	4.6	-
2705	8612¾	Wells Fargo	9525	+ 143¾	3.6	73.9
260	194	Westpac	227	+ ¼	3.1	
390	303	Wintrust	338		2.4	-

BREWERIES

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1025	150	Ascot Hldgs	154			
619	485	Bass	538	+ 6	4.9	13.3
299	246	Boddington	247	+ 1	4.2	13.3
196	168	Burtonwd Brwf	174		3.7	14.5
187	142	Eldridge P 'A'	170	+ 12	3.0	20.6
66	46¾	Fosters Brewing	54		5.3	-
493	342	Fullr Sm 'A'	360	- 2	2.7	14.9
511	399	Greenalls Grp	432	+ 6	3.8	21.4
584	452	Greene King	530		3.3	14.1
267	239	Hardy Hanson	258		4.6	-
170	135	Heavitree	150	- 6	3.8	-
3773	3125	Holt J	3363		1.8	18.5
247	195	Mansfield	247		2.4	15.1
314	256	Marston Thmp	302		2.5	14.7
545	440	Morland	460		2.9	13.8
10¾	6½	Paramount	7		3.6	16.5
329	209	Regent Inns	327		2.1	25.1
1665¾	1000	SA Breweries	1431¼	+ 18¾	2.1	22.2
591	477	Scot & Newt	509	- 3	4.3	14.5
306	215	Vaux Group	225	+ 4	5.5	12.7
491	324½	Wetherspoon JD	467		1.8	25.7
617	494	Whitbread	565	+ 2	4.2	15.4
589	493	Wolvrhmptn D	501		3.5	13.2
308	148	Yates Bros	196		2.4	15.4
535	458	Young 'A'	458		4.1	19.4

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
205	130	Abbeyt	130		5.0	9.5
200	143	Allen	143		4.9	13.4
164	61	Amec	67	+ 1	5.6	38.7
165	47	Andrews Sykes	152			
462	333	Ashtead	420		1.6	26.6
191	98	Avonside	99		5.6	11.6
41	35	Bailey (Ben) Cos	35		2.5	31.4
88	18½	Barcom	45			
292	139	Barratt Devs	169	+ 1	4.4	13.1
169	122	Beazer Homes	135	+ 2	5.0	10.6

DISTRIBUTORS

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
127	58	ABI Leis	79		5.1	11.4
317	248	Acal	273		2.8	16.7
535	355	Allen & Hanbry	505		3.3	7.5
31	20	Alexanders	20	..	3.1	18.6
175	106	Appleyard	107		6.8	18.9
6	3¼	Arc Br Eng	4¾			
579	496	BSG Group	525	+ 1	1.4	32.1
25½	17	Benning Power	23		4.4	18.3
405	249	Bletchley Mtr	252		5.4	11.8
49	38	Bogod 'A'	38		5.2	10.4
370	289	Brammer	347		3.1	11.8
31	15	Bridgend Gp	15		4.7	19.3
99	78	Brit Fittings	95		1.7	78.8
71	40	Brown & Tawse	43	- 2	3.0	..
57	35	Bunzlder	37			
405	245	Caffyns	250	- 3	6.5	-
50	19¾	Cassel Pic	20½	- ½	5.5	40.7
130	76	Central Mtr	76		6.7	11.4
51	32½	Cope (DC)	40		4.7	-
342¾	197½	Cowie	225	- 3	3.6	12.3
192¾	127	Dag Motors	138		5.1	11.2
663	446	Dennant Dir	568		5.9	15.9
638	414½	Diploma	438	- 3	1.4	14.5
589	443	Electrocomponts	479	- 3½	3.9	15.4
175	133	Electron House	163		2.7	19.6
283	225	Ells & Everard	253		2.7	13.7
234	201	Eurodisdlyt	201		3.9	18.8
173	104	European Mo	104	- 1	5.3	15.7
539¾	381	Evans Halshaw	381		5.4	11.3
656	490½	Farnell Elect	547	- 3	4.7	12.0
78	50	File Indexg	55		1.8	22.4
34	15	Gardon	19	- ½	6.2	8.1
46	19	Gestetneton	21½		5.4	-
90	60	Gowrings	77			23.7
76	59	Hallam Hldgs	62	- 1	3.5	27.5
172	122	Hanis (Philip)	170			53.1
342¾	260	Henlys	261		5.0	14.9
191	88	Holders Tech	97		3.6	14.0
138	106	ISA Intl	106		7.7	10.5
609	399	Inchcape	317	+ 16	2.0	13.2
68	35	Jacks (Wm)	59		5.9	10.5
184	145	Kwik-Fit	151	- 2		13.4
573	291	Lex Service	292½	- 2½	3.3	17.3
282	162	Lookers	179	- 5	5.7	11.2
20	14	Malaysia Grp	14½		5.4	-
9	3½	Middlesex 'C'	6¾	- ¼	2.2	
440	279	Moracon	403	...	0.7	18.0
100	47	Northamber	91	...	1.8	38.6
175	152	PCT	152		6.1	14.7
310	232	Pendragon	234		4.0	15.4
238	133	Perry Gp	133		6.6	7.3
218	126	Quick Group	126		5.2	13.3
166	97	REA	165		4.5	34.1
5½	2¾	Reece	2¾			

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	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD 0895 259 783				
Grdland Amer	157.70	166.80	+ 4.00	0.22
Grdland Equity	226.20	240.70	+ 2.80	2.68
Grdland Euro	192.50	203.70	+ 2.80	0.55
Grdland Expt Bal	104.80	108.60		4.04
Grdland Gilt	72.57	74.82	+ 0.28	5.66
Grdland Japan	160.20	169.50	+ 0.80	..
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS 0303 553 231				
General Acc	509.00	541.60	+ 3.50	2.93
General Inc	448.90	477.60	+ 3.00	2.93
UK Growth Acc	343.00	364.90	+ 2.10	3.00
UK Growth Inc	234.80	249.80	+ 1.50	3.00
Higher Inc Acc	642.30	683.40	+ 2.40	4.20
Higher Inc Inc	371.30	395.00	+ 1.80	4.20
Gilt/Fxd Int Acc	185.20	192.70	+ 0.50	6.06
Gilt/Fxd Int Inc	88.72	93.71	+ 0.24	6.06
Nth America	256.50	272.90	+ 5.80	..
Far East	320.60	341.10	+ 8.90	0.32
Europe	260.80	277.50	+ 5.40	0.97
Bal Excell	67.97	72.31	+ 0.05	3.21
Bnf Fndmtl Acc	97.19	103.40	...	4.96
Bnf Fndmtl Inc	71.29	75.85	+ 0.01	4.96
Global Opps	80.02	85.13	+ 1.37	0.48
Balanced Acc	51.66	54.98†	+ 0.33	3.18
Balanced Inc	50.39	53.61†	+ 0.32	3.18
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS 0345 717 373				
High Income				
Gilts & Fixed Int	126.80	134.50	+ 0.80	7.93
High Inc Equity	152.20	162.80†	+ 0.80	4.83
Worldwide Bond	257.50	273.20†	− 0.10	5.56
Capital Growth				
American Growth	270.10	289.60†	+ 6.30	.83
Asian Pacific	284.20	302.30	−10.30	
Assets & Earnings	244.50	260.10	+ 1.10	3.00
Commdty & Energy	97.67	103.90	− 2.50	
Euro Capital Inc	127.90	136.80	+ 2.50	.71
(Accum Units)	136.60	146.00	+ 2.50	.71
General	215.00	228.70†	+ 0.10	2.38
Japan	118.00	124.10	+ 2.40	
Mastertrust	132.20	141.40	+ 1.80	1.76
UK Growth Dist	113.70	121.60	− 0.20	2.84
US Emerging Cos	129.00	138.00	+ 2.30	.
Income & Growth	361.70	384.80	+ 2.40	3.25
Ethical	64.63	68.75	+ 0.31	2.98
International	109.10	115.00	+ 1.90	1.11
Dividend & Growth	58.95	60.60†	+ 0.38	4.64
Global Gwth & Sec	*66.16*	*70.56*	*+ 0.22*	2.98
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 031 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	£16.39	£16.50	−29.00	
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0800 833 580				
Amer Inc & Growth	42.38	44.15	+ 0.74	0.70
Cash	50.35	50.35	+ 0.04	4.47
Emerging Mkts	65.30	69.20	+ 0.90	0.05
European	107.50	112.30†	+ 1.60	.
Exempt	935.00	£10.05†	+ 0.50	1.85
Extra Income #	46.78	49.20	+ 0.12	6.13
Far East Emg Eco	104.10	111.00	+ 3.80	0.58
Fixed Interest #	22.56	23.68	+ 0.15	8.72
Fund Inv Tst	164.60	173.20		0.97
Japan	166.10	173.80	− 0.10	
Latin American	51.24	53.78	− 0.27	0.90
Pacific	65.76	69.43	+ 1.90	0.38
Property Share	59.86	62.83†	+ 0.14	2.17
UK Emerging Cos	60.23	63.23†	− 0.22	1.96
UK Growth	41.94	44.43	+ 0.22	2.64
Aber World Port #	68.12	69.26	+ 0.92	2.36
Ethical	59.39	62.34	+ 0.08	2.82
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	43.01	49.01	+ 0.16	7.66
AEGON UNIT TRUSTS LTD 031 549 3232				
British Growth	65.39	70.63†	+ 0.41	2.72
British Income	*76.87*	81.77†	+ 0.30	3.44
Select Portfolio	79.83	84.92†	− 0.23	.
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD 0452 305 958				
Amity Income	70.96	75.29	− 0.01	2.59
Income Builder Inc	64.22	68.32†	− 0.32	3.04
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC IFA dlg: 0793 610 366 Client dlg: 0793 514 514				
Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	217.10	232.00	+ 1.60	3.36
Capital	382.00	408.30	+ 3.80	2.03
Balanced	636.90	680.60†	+ 3.60	2.92
Accumulator	£11.79	£12.60	+ 9.00	3.22
Income Trusts				
American Income	46.37	49.58†	+ 1.08	3.59
High Income	368.60	394.00	+ 2.50	3.92
Equity Income	207.30	221.60†	+ 0.70	3.76
High Yield	223.90	239.38	+ 1.80	3.63
Govt Securities	32.49	34.30†	+ 0.02	6.18
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	139.70	149.30	+ 3.50	0.47
European Growth	33.01	35.19	+ 0.56	0.01
International	149.90	160.20†	+ 3.20	0.21
Japan	192.50	205.00†	− 0.50	0.01
Pacific	349.80	373.90†	+ 7.30	0.91
Secs of America	*408.00*	*434.50†*	*+12.90*	*0.53*
Wrldw Asset Val	44.84	47.93	+ 0.77	0.25
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	485.40	518.80†	+ 2.30	2.46
Conv & Gilt	40.44	43.23†	+ 0.26	5.37
Smaller Cos	159.10	170.00†	− 0.50	1.31
2nd Smaller Cos	151.70	162.10	− 0.60	1.50
Recovery	126.80	135.50	+ 1.00	1.93
Met Min & Cdty	139.10	148.80	− 1.00	0.80
Oseas Earnings	325.00	347.40†	+ 3.00	1.94
Technology	153.70	164.30	+ 1.40	0.01
UK Special Sits	418.50	447.30	+ 1.89	1.94
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD 0293 526 911				
Cntrctd Out Pens	93.45	97.09	− 1.40	3.04
Fdamtn Persl Pens	58.51	60.78	− 0.97	2.28
BSI-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0171 600 0033				
Capital	67.02	71.30†	+ 0.45	1.97
International	60.19	64.03†	+ 1.41	..
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD 031 222 4242				
America	252.50	283.20	+ 2.70	..
Bond	108.70	114.50†	+ 0.80	7.26
Brit Smlr Cos	92.93	98.69†	+ 0.01	1.90
Conv & Gen #	*62.05*	*66.01†*	*− 0.94*	*5.65*
Europe	210.60	224.10	+ 2.20	0.52
Euro Smlr Cos	95.55	101.80	+ 0.60	0.61
Income Gwth	330.70	351.80†	− 0.80	4.50
Japan	289.10	307.10	− 0.90	
Latin American	66.98	71.26	+ 0.34	
Pacific	94.47	100.59	+ 3.75	0.80
UK Smlr Cos	50.38	53.51†	+ 0.12	1.42
Japan Fd	661.10	681.09†	+ 4.00	.
Mngd Fd	163.50	173.99	+ 1.20	3.02
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD 071 489 8673				
Brit & Oseas	264.60	278.59	+ 4.80	1.32
Capital Gwth	104.80	110.39	+ 0.59	2.43
Wwide Opps	167.76	176.50	+ 0.60	0.45
BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD 081 534 5544				
Balanced Trusts				
Bal Inv Fd Inc	322.90	336.40	+ 2.90	3.09
European Bd Inc	86.80	89.65†	+ 0.53	7.96
Exempt	69.57	74.42	+ 0.48	4.42
Financial	68.65	73.42	+ 0.25	2.96
500.0	420.70	450.00	− 0.20	2.62
General	257.70	275.60	+ 2.50	2.81
Property	246.90	264.00	+ 0.20	6.30
Trustee	169.50	181.30†	+ 0.50	2.57
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	100.30	100.30†	.	5.16
Extra Income	111.30	119.00	+ 0.70	4.30
Gilt & Fxd Int	56.18	58.07	+ 0.43	8.88
Income	486.20	520.00†	+ 3.30	4.33
Income Builder	60.16	64.00	+ 0.30	4.93
Util Income	58.50	62.24†	+ 0.68	3.84
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	110.49	117.70†	+ 0.10	2.67
Leisure	115.10	123.10	+ 0.20	1.70
Recovery	384.70	411.40	+ 3.30	2.95
Smlr Cos Inc	41.67	44.69	..	2.06
Special Sits	264.30	282.70	+ 2.00	1.71
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	119.10	126.40	+ 1.40	0.74
Aust Acc	227.00	241.50	− 3.70	2.27
Aust Inc	139.60	148.60	− 1.90	2.27
Euro Gwth Inc	143.00	151.70	+ 1.70	0.77
(Accum Units)	153.10	162.38	+ 1.80	0.77
Japan & Gen Inc	162.40	171.90	− 0.50	
(Accum Units)	164.30	173.90	− 0.50	..
Japan Spec Sits	74.45	78.87	− 0.10	..
Unv Tech Inc	73.75	78.38	+ 0.69	0.05
Worldwide	156.50	166.10†	+ 1.80	0.89
BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD 081 858 9802				
American Growth	89.63	95.12	+ 2.84	.
Amer Smlr Cos	124.40	133.50	+ 3.10	..
Convertibles	53.07	56.75†	− 0.09	5.70
Eastern	236.60	256.50	+11.60	0.10
Equity Income	83.33	88.64†	+ 0.23	4.90
European Growth	281.40	298.10	+ 2.80	0.80
Europe	207.00	219.80	+ 1.10	0.20
German Growth	71.28	75.53	+ 1.95	0.50
Global Bond	60.27	63.46†	+ 0.47	6.20
Global Growth	118.58	124.20	+ 2.20	
Japan Growth	194.00	208.80	+ 1.50	.
Japan Sunrise	164.60	175.40	− 0.20	.
Korea Trust	71.98	79.66	+ 1.35	.
Portfolio	122.10	130.70	+ 0.70	1.80
(Accum Units)	222.60	238.50	+ 1.30	1.80
UK Growth	*78.87*	*83.90*	*+ 0.67*	*1.40*
UK Smaller Cos	80.96	86.58	+ 0.30	1.80
Select Managers	69.78	74.67	+ 0.52	1.10
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD 071 250 3300				
Intl Gwth Port Inc	69.95	74.10†	+ 0.03	
Special Oppor Inc	50.62	53.85†	+ 0.70	.
For Brewin Dolphin see GEM Dolphin				
BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MGRS LTD 041 223 6020				
Balanced Growth	99.13	104.90	+ 0.74	1.97
(Accum Units)	*111.43*	*117.92*	*+ 0.84*	*1.97*
Smaller Cos	95.28	100.82	+ 0.15	1.28
Higher Yield #	41.97	44.42†	+ 0.38	4.78
American Gth Inc	68.81	72.81†	+ 0.50	
European Growth	132.28	139.98	+ 2.34	..
(Accum Units)	134.88	142.73	+ 2.38	
Global Bond Inc #	25.98	26.94	+ 0.28	7.83
Mngd Pfolio Inc	39.39	41.67	+ 0.40	1.72
(Accum Units)	39.95	42.29	+ 0.41	1.72
Int Spec Opps	106.16	112.36	+ 1.40	..
Pacific Gth	113.02	119.60	+ 2.20	
Formerly LAS				
UK General #	69.77	73.83†	+ 0.37	3.73
(Accum Units) #	71.44	75.60	+ 0.38	3.73
Japan	57.53	60.88†	− 0.05	..
Gilt & Fixed Int #	94.03	95.95	+ 0.83	7.49
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD 071 480 7216				
Short Dated Gilt	64.78	65.62	+ 0.28	6.24
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD 061 837 5060				
Environ	146.00	155.40	+ 1.30	1.77
UK Growth	156.20	166.20†	+ 0.30	2.47
UK Income	126.00	134.10	+ 0.50	4.55
CANADA LIFE UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0707 651 122				
Can Gen Dist	174.90	185.40†	+ 2.10	2.14
-do- Income Dist	104.30	110.50	+ 0.40	4.52
(Accum Units)	314.70	333.50	+ 1.10	4.52
Gilt & Fxd Int	38.45	40.78†	− 1.01	6.67
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD 061 236 5685 Enq: 081 236 5685 Dlg: 061 236 5382				
American & Gen	144.80	154.19	+ 3.40	..
European Inc	74.75	79.12	+ 1.11	0.60
Smaller Cos (4-1)	76.59	81.49	− 0.03	2.08
Growth	391.20	416.20	− 2.20	2.85
Income & Growth	374.40	398.30†	+ 2.00	4.24
(Accum Units)	534.20	568.30	+ 2.80	4.24
Japan & Gen	67.75	71.81	+ 1.23	..
Master Portfolio	£96.40	£102.07†	+22.00	2.08
(Accum Units)	£115.03	£119.41	+26.00	2.08
Special Sits	89.35	94.95†	− 0.79	2.83
High Yield	£12.23	£12.61	+ 6.00	4.69
For Capital House see Newton				
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD 071 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	78.45	83.65†	+ 0.44	2.38
American Portfolio	87.81	93.60	+ 2.62	1.27
European Portfolio	93.83	99.92	+ 1.81	0.81
Japanese Portfolio	60.35	64.07†	+ 0.64	..
Pacific Portfolio	126.90	136.49	+ 2.82	0.97
UK Inc & Growth	72.01	77.26	− 0.08	3.44
Utility & Bond	*53.31*	*53.82*	*− 0.31*	*7.08*

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG 071 588 1815				
Inv Fund	627.75	633.45	−17.65	4.86
Fxd Int Sec	147.85	148.20	+ 0.75	9.78
CENTURY UNIT TRUSTS LTD 071 332 5000				
UK General Tst	59.31	63.09†	+ 0.26	3.15
COIF-CHARITIES OFFICIAL INV FD 071 588 1815				
Inc	618.67	626.52	−13.67	4.96%
Accum	526.31	526.50	−74.55	.
Fixed Int Inc	120.20	120.42	+ 0.67	9.63
Fixed Int Acc	187.69	187.95	+ 2.50	.
CHARTERED ASSET MGMT LTD 071 837 7667				
Intl Growth	111.39	121.67	+ 2.56	.
UK Income	98.13	107.12	− 8.38	5.60
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD 071 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	73.67	78.07	+ 2.23	1.55
Beck Bio-Tech	25.53	28.29	+ 1.32	..
Acorn Ethical Tst	144.89	152.30	− 0.52	0.74
City Fin Accets	63.25	67.29	− 0.01	1.34
City Fin America	81.17	85.44	+ 1.47	.
City Fin Intl	69.07	72.71	− 0.41	1.0
City Fin Japan	159.30	158.11†	− 1.03	..
Friars Hse Cap	252.05	272.69†	− 1.05	1.80
Friars Hse Inc	181.64	193.23	+ 0.69	4.27
Buckley Wrld Gth	113.50	120.74	− 0.80	0.18
Fairmed Cap Gth	127.60	135.74	+ 0.36	..
Fairmount Intl	139.53	148.44	+ 1.23	..
City Fin Pftlo Inc	50.83	54.07	+ 0.36	4.43
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD 071 711 0771 Admin: 0277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	51.28	54.41	+ 0.92	..
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD 0800 373 393				
American Gwth	53.62	57.24	+ 1.14	..
Atlas Mngd Gwth	34.10	36.47	+ 0.86	0.45
Dragon Growth	61.17	65.42	+ 2.72	0.53
Equity High Inc	77.05	81.97	− 0.10	4.26
(Accum Units)	103.60	110.21	− 0.15	4.26
European Gwth	48.19	51.27	+ 0.77	0.86
Evergreen	26.95	28.82	+ 0.28	..
General Equity	78.50	83.29	+ 0.56	2.74
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	23.83	25.85†	+ 0.24	8.36
Japan Growth	48.41	51.78	+ 1.58	..
Pedigree Gwth	47.32	50.34	+ 0.29	2.78
Ped Sm Cos Inc	28.60	30.43	− 0.17	1.30
(Accum Units)	29.72	31.62	− 0.17	1.30
Retirement Inc #	24.17	25.71†	− 0.19	6.24
Special Sits	35.56	37.83	+ 0.11	2.09
UK & Overseas	44.80	47.66	+ 0.94	1.46
COLONIAL MUTUAL UT MGRS LTD 0634 888 000				
Capital	62.46	66.80†	+ 0.68	2.38
Income	56.42	60.34†	− 0.43	4.38
COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD 081 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds:				
Equity Inc	147.69	157.02	+ 1.23	5.71
Fixed & Convertible	38.84	41.11†	+ 0.27	7.48
Monthly Inc Plus	47.17	50.18	+ 0.10	8.93
Preference Share	45.99	48.93†	+ 0.28	7.55
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	115.02	122.36†	− 0.67	7.62
Managed Fund	63.42	67.47	+ 0.47	3.12
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	36.47	38.80	− 0.07	1.75
(Accum Units)	41.73	44.39	− 0.09	1.75
UK & General	72.64	77.38	+ 0.38	2.87
(Accum Units)	90.91	96.71	− 0.45	2.87
UK Growth	129.51	137.78	− 0.30	2.47
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	182.14	193.77	+ 2.00	0.26
Far Eastern Gth	117.01	124.48	+ 2.77	..
Global Bond	75.25	79.98	+ 0.63	6.33
Japan Growth	111.38	118.49	+ 0.60	..
North Amer Gth	156.19	166.16	+ 2.79	.
Oriental Growth	67.95	72.30	+ 2.81	..
Worldwide Growth	60.99	64.88	+ 0.90	0.08
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	92.78	92.76	+ 0.07	5.70
Homemaker Fund	72.57	77.20†	+ 0.68	1.96
Quilter Fund	118.05	125.59†	− 0.23	3.12
CONFEDERATION FUNDS MGMT LTD 0438 744 840				
Growth Inc	54.12	57.57†	+ 0.33	3.20
(Accum Units)	58.60	62.34	+ 0.36	3.20
High Income	31.84	33.87	+ 0.15	4.90
Japan	33.37	35.49	+ 0.95	..
Smaller Cos Inc	28.63	30.45	− 0.15	2.70
Smaller Cos	30.32	32.25	− 0.15	2.70
North American	31.06	33.04	+ 0.54	0.80
European	35.48	37.74	+ 0.57	0.60
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD 071 407 5966				
Consistent UT	*29.09*	*31.21†*	*− 0.24*	3.56
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD 0800 526 358				
Growth	135.90	144.60	− 0.20	2.08
Income	85.24	89.41†	− 0.16	5.33
European	58.81	62.36	+ 0.89	1.11
Recovery	145.50	154.80	+ 1.20	1.95
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD 071 283 9484				
Equity Dist	755.90	788.40	−22.40	3.79
CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD 0277 690 370				
Fellowship Tst	68.47	72.84	+ 0.24	1.35
Income #	221.80	235.90	+ 0.70	4.93
(Accum Units) #	546.29	581.09	+ 1.80	4.93
Smaller Cos	147.30	156.70†	− 0.40	0.82
(Accum Units)	180.20	191.69†	− 0.40	0.82
Inv Portfolio	73.32	78.00	+ 0.69	1.53
High Inc Port #	64.02	68.10	− 0.24	5.09
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD 071 410 0177				
Euro Small Cos	£14.80	£15.15	+12.90	..
Japan Small Cos	£11.89	£12.13	+12.10	..
UK Small Cos	£16.87	£17.60†	− 7.90	...
US Small Cos	*£15.22*	*£15.71*	*+ 1.90*	
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS 071 377 8819				
Disc Inc	193.40	203.60	−20.09	2.78
DUNEDIN UNIT TST MGRS LTD 031 315 2500				
European Gwth	263.20	278.20	+ 4.80	1.00
New Asia	187.10	199.89	+ 6.90	0.17
Japan Growth	113.30	120.70	+ 1.70	..
Jap Smlr Co	465.20	494.59	− 4.10	
Nth Amer	248.00	262.89	+ 2.30	0.90
Sml Asia Pac Mt	106.50	112.90	+ 3.50	0.40
UK Inc & Gth	*197.27*	*210.59*	*+ 0.60*	3.16
EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD 0242 577 555				
UK Balanced Inc	130.70	139.60	+ 1.30	1.93
UK High Inc Inc	139.20	148.10	+ 1.50	4.85
(Accum Units)	178.20	189.60	+ 1.80	4.85
UK Pref & F I Inc	55.85	59.30	+ 0.04	5.29
Enhanced Opps	78.39	83.39	+ 0.21	1.12
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0345 090 526				
American	117.10	124.38	+ 1.70	1.41
Convertibles #	19.59	20.81	+ 0.03	6.73
Equity Income #	118.00	125.49	+ 0.70	4.23
EuroFund	43.15	45.80	+ 0.66	0.44
Financial	40.95	43.51	+ 0.52	1.72
Growth & Inc #	217.60	231.20†	− 0.90	3.33
High Dist #	144.20	153.20	+ 1.00	4.90
International	355.40	377.60	+ 7.20	0.13
Int Cap Inc	87.40	93.30†	+ 1.36	2.65
Latin American	29.28	31.11	− 0.63	..
Pacific	72.18	76.69	+ 2.64	..
Preference Share	21.90	23.27†	+ 0.13	7.09
Tokyo	209.90	223.00	+ 4.10	.
UK Smaller Cos	212.10	225.40	+ 0.40	1.2
ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD 071 242 0242				
Econ Trust	196.17	208.46	.	1.10
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD 071 373 7261				
Endurance Fd	183.50	195.30	+ 1.30	1.03
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0296 431 480				
European	75.79	79.78	+ 1.39	1.67
Ethical Tst	41.40	43.58†	+ 0.15	1.33
Far Eastern	273.65	288.05	+ 8.79	2.08
High Income	122.39	128.83	+ 0.79	5.05
Intl Growth	111.86	117.75	+ 1.73	1.38
North American	104.55	110.05	+ 1.84	1.38
Pelican	108.88	114.61	+ 0.74	3.36
Smaller Cos	64.13	67.51	+ 0.23	2.80
Special Sits	82.74	87.09	− 0.05	2.46
Tst of Inv Tsts	170.71	179.69	+ 0.70	1.61
EVERMORE FUND MGMT LTD 071 407 5966				
Smaller Cos Inc	192.78	200.81	− 0.86	1.45
Smaller Cos Acc	337.33	351.39	− 1.49	1.45
Recovery	48.93	50.97	− 0.30	1.39
Recovery Acc	49.47	51.53	− 0.29	1.39
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD 0392 412 144				
Balanced	107.25	113.96	+ 0.38	6.10
Capital Growth	75.20	80.64	+ 0.32	.
Fd of Inv Tsts	47.30	44.05†	+ 0.37	0.66
High Income #	40.94	43.68†	− 0.21	10.46
Warrant	49.70	54.00	+ 0.30	.
Zero Preference	38.54	38.77	+ 0.09	..
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD 0273 220 707				
Family Asset Tst	72.45	77.07†	+ 0.41	2.84
Family Income Tst	45.03	45.03†	+ 0.14	6.31
Family Trust	79.66	*84.74†*	− 0.77	1.52
United Charities	*247.00*	*262.70*	*− 1.20*	*3.85*
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD Callfree: Private Clients: 0800 414 161				
Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.60	.	5.50
Bond Funds				
Gilt & Fxd Int	28.49	28.58	+ 0.19	7.78
Intl Bond	26.86	27.88†	+ 0.30	5.47
Income Funds				
High Income	23.60	24.83†	− 0.10	5.28
Income Plus	103.10	108.70	+ 0.20	4.35
Amer Eq Inc	44.56	47.18†	+ 0.61	2.17
European Income	40.30	42.85	+ 0.48	1.81
Far East Inc	58.38	62.09	+ 0.65	2.13
Global Convertible	21.42	22.85	+ 0.08	3.79
UK Div Gth	22.95	24.41	+ 0.08	1.93
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	58.69	60.47	+ 4.13	...
American	226.80	240.30	+ 4.10	.
Amer Spec Sits	108.00	115.30	+ 1.80	...
Japan Smaller Cos	36.67	39.12	− 0.37	...
European	160.60	170.80	+ 1.90	..
European Opps	59.94	63.74	+ 0.76	..
Global Pty	23.11	24.62	+ 0.26	1.09
UK Growth	84.72	90.09	+ 0.58	..
Growth & Inc	132.20	140.60†	− 0.50	2.48
Intl PEP	34.12	36.26	+ 0.04	
Japan Spec Sits	88.25	93.98†	+ 1.28	..
Japan	179.80	191.58	+ 1.20	..
Managed Intl	253.20	269.80	+ 2.40	
Moneybuilder	49.45	52.58	+ 0.47	..
Recovery	44.71	47.54	− 0.02	..
South E Asia	131.20	140.00	+ 7.30	
Special Sits	469.90	499.70	− 0.10	..
Specialist Funds				
Cash Accum Units	108.03	108.03	+ 0.08	5.50
FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD 071 814 2700				
Balanced #	126.00	128.80	+ 1.20	1.65
Inc Pfolio #	80.10	81.64	+ 0.42	4.10
Cap Pfolio	131.50	133.80†	+ 0.90	0.77
General Opps	113.90	115.70	+ 0.60	3.62
Growth Inc	28.18	28.75	+ 0.10	1.87
Private Portfolio	372.80	381.20	+ 4.50	1.55
FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT Enq: 071 454 1434 Dlg: 0277 261 010				
Hypo Foreign & Colonial				
European	106.90	112.99	+ 1.30	0.69
Emrg Asian	151.80	162.30	+ 7.10	..
High Income	20.49	21.75†	− 0.04	10.34
Oseas Income	85.44	91.38†	+ 0.97	3.52
UK Growth	99.67	106.80†	+ 0.90	1.72
UK Income	99.00	105.60	+ 0.80	3.86
US Smaller Cos	*283.10*	*302.80*	*+ 2.10*	..

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Former rivals unite to forge a formidable alliance

Mansell chases winning formula

By Oliver Holt

THERE is a well-known phenomenon in Formula One motor racing called Ron-Speak. It means the use of any number of jargon terms to camouflage intelligible English and its perpetrator is Ron Dennis, the managing director of the McLaren team. Yesterday seemed a perfect occasion for its implementation, when he announced at last that Nigel Mansell would be driving for McLaren this season.

Instead, something strange happened. Dennis admitted he had had misgivings about Mansell and said their first meeting had been "catastrophic", but the refreshing candour with which he talked spoke volumes for the blossoming relationship between them.

With representatives of Mercedes, his new engine partners looking on, Dennis began justifying his signing of Mansell on a one-year contract that is thought to be worth about £7 milion to the 1992 world champion, who has won more races than the rest of present crop of grand prix drivers combined.

He explained away his past assertion that he would never employ a driver he did not understand and that he did not understand Mansell, even summoning echoes of his stubborn relationship with Ayrton Senna by revealing that he and Mansell had been so determined not to budge on their respective positions over wages that they had agreed to give the $100,000 that separated them to charity.

"We are very different characters," Dennis said, "and a lot of people are aware of the opinions I expressed on Nigel in the past. What became clear in our second meeting is that Nigel brings a unique style to grand prix racing. You have got to look behind the split personality, you have to look at the dedication he brings.

"I prefer the committed Nigel Mansell to the somewhat extrovert and flamboyant race-winner that I have seen up to now. He has achieved many things in his life already and he has a public face. I wanted to see behind that face but it takes time."

Mansell, in London to announce his deal with McLaren yesterday, says he is driven by a burning desire to win

Mansell seemed to be inspired by this bout of psycho-analysis and responded by claiming he had never been more motivated than he was now. "The sheer excitement of the future is what drives me on," he said. "I cannot stop the fire burning. All the motivation and the fire is there like never before. I feel it, I sense it, I want it."

Mansell was keen to emphasise that he had tried to persuade Dennis to sign him on a longer contract and that he had no intention of retiring at the end of the coming season. Although neither he nor his team-mate, Mika Hakkinen, has been given preferential status, it was clear from Mansell's phrasing of certain replies that he expected to be the dominant figure in the team, that he expected to formulate some sort of challenge for the championship.

"It is not a question of 'will we win this year', it is a question of when we will win. I tried to negotiate an option for two more years on my contract because I did not want to come back and get everything right and then have to hand to the car over. But I have the personal word of Ron that if everything is going OK, there is no reason to change the driver line-up next year."

Mansell's recruitment to the ranks of Formula One raises the quota of British drivers to a new high. There are now six, with David Coulthard and Damon Hill at Williams, Eddie Irvine at Jordan, Johnny Herbert at Benetton and Martin Brundle at Ligier. All have realistic hopes of winning races in what is promising to be one of the most closely fought championships of recent years.

In the past, it seemed impossible that Mansell and McLaren would form an all-British challenge. "We used to be arch-rivals," Mansell said. "Whenever McLaren was the car in front, I was usually second. Now that we are together we should be a formidable partnership."

Cantona just a scapegoat since society is to blame

Simon Barnes

On Saturday

L'AFFAIRE Cantona has divided a nation. Mostly this is a simple debate between Disgusted of Tunbridge Wells ("Ban him until the last trump!") and Facetious of Oxbridge ("Fancy a footballer having read a book!"). Both sides have succeeded in outCantoning Cantona, the first in uncontrolled rage, the second in bogus philosophising. Now a third party enters the debate: the academic footballing romantic, a throwback to the Sixties and the days of Marty Feldman, author of *Sado-Masochism in the 4-2-4 System*.

Manchester Metropolitan University's Institute of Popular Culture speaks out through its director, Derek Wynne: "The FA tribunal should be mindful of the signals that their decision will send to players, fans and their clubs. Should Cantona and Manchester United be made scapegoats for an incident initiated by an apparent xenophobe and criminal convicted of attempted armed robbery? The FA must be careful their decision does not demean this season's competitions through ensuring a victory for xenophobic abuse."

As for *moi*, I have a question. Why did Cantona become a national villain for kicking a lout at a football match and Norman Hadley, rugby player, a national hero for punching a similar lout on the Tube?

Far from home

The Australians still play domestic cricket in between bouts of getting stuffed by the Poms, and the Victoria state side is heading the Sheffield Shield table. In fact, they are on course to win the right to stage the final at their home ground in March. At the historic MCG, right? Er, no. The Melbourne Cricket Ground has long been booked on the date for a Rolling Stones concert. The Victoria side must seek satisfaction at the Junction Oval instead. What next? Madonna at Lord's, no doubt.

Just not cricket

Do you know why Australian cricketers are so rough and rugged and generally beastly? Simple. They don't have Oxbridge types playing the game. I should have worked that out for myself; instead, I am indebted to Geoff Lovell, former Oxford captain of 1992 and winner of the inaugural Bradman scholarship. He also took a first in PPE and is a leading contender for the 1995 Young Fogey of the Year Award. He writes in the *Exeter College Association Register*: "The common argument that if England is serious about toughness and standards, then it must abolish the first-class status of university cricket, does not sit with me. In Australia, where such cricket has never nor could ever exist, the standard at the top may generally be higher, but the game lacks that spirit, fellowship and diversity ... and the standards of on-field behaviour, compromised under the banner of competitiveness, too often are lowered at the expense of the game's good reputation, won deservedly over decades and decades." To sum up: Australia? Do I not like that.

Wait for the pips

Fancy making a telephone call to O. J. Simpson? This is the moment. A company called Sportscomm Inc has done a deal with O. J. to inaugurate the Juiceline, named after Simpson's nickname. Juiceline phonecards are now on sale at $10, $20 and $32, the last being O. J.'s jersey number. Phonecards are serious "collectables" in the United States; each Juiceline card features a good-old-days image of the Great Man on trial for double murder. Callers hear O. J.'s voice, recorded before the murders took place, and can leave a message ("We love ya, O. J.!"). Marc Bryant, of Sportcomm, has been accused of exploiting the horrors. "I had to be very introspective when all the trouble started," he replied.

Follicular folly

Let us turn to the real tragedy of the week. Romario, the world's top footballer, is losing his hair. Romario, World Cup-winner with Brazil, recently fleeing Barcelona for Flamengo of Rio and the sweet taste of home, is desperately worried that there is no reversing the terrible loss of hair, and he has been visiting specialists to restore both hair and youth. He puts it down to "the tensions of the World Cup, the American adventures, and the anxieties accumulated during a massacring experience".

Hand of God?

Early news from Maradona's managerial career. He is now manager of Racing Club, in Buenos Aires, who recently took on Independiente in what was humorously termed a "friendly". The referee, finally losing patience with Maradona's cultured and measured criticisms of his performance from the bench, sent him off. Independiente won 2-0. After the match, in streets near the stadium, Maradona and some of his players became involved in a Cantona-esque philosophical discussion of events with Independiente supporters. One of the supporters ended up in hospital.

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket match*
Pools coupon numbers in brackets

FA Carling Premiership

(1) Coventry v Chelsea
(2) Everton v Norwich
(3) Ipswich v *Crystal Palace*
(4) Leicester v West Ham
(5) Manchester Utd v Aston Villa
(6) * Nottingham Forest v Liverpool
(7) * QPR v Newcastle
(8) Sheff Wed v *Arsenal*
(9) Southampton v Man City
(10) Wimbledon v Leeds

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Blackburn	26	18	5	3	57	21	59
Man Utd	*26*	*16*	*6*	*4*	*47*	*21*	*54*
Newcastle	26	13	9	4	45	26	48
Liverpool	25	13	7	5	44	20	46
Nottm For	26	13	6	7	39	28	45
Tottenham	25	11	6	8	41	36	39
Leeds	25	10	8	7	34	28	38
Sheff Wed	26	9	9	8	33	32	36
Wimbledon	25	10	5	10	31	40	35
Norwich	25	9	7	9	24	27	34
Arsenal	26	8	9	9	29	28	33
Aston Villa	26	7	10	9	32	35	31
Chelsea	25	8	7	10	32	35	31
Man City	25	8	7	10	33	39	31
Soton	25	6	11	8	35	40	29
C Palace	26	6	9	11	19	26	27
QPR	24	7	6	11	35	44	27
Everton	26	6	9	11	25	35	27
Coventry	26	6	9	11	23	43	27
West Ham	25	7	4	14	22	32	25
Ipswich	26	5	5	16	29	53	20
Leicester	25	4	6	15	23	43	18

Endsleigh Insurance League
First division

(—) * Bolton v Wolverhampton
(11) Bristol City v Barnsley
(12) Burnley v Swindon
(13) Derby v Sheffield Utd
(14) Luton v Oldham
(15) Middlesbrough v Reading
(16) Millwall v Grimsby
(—) Southend v Watford
(17) Stoke v Portsmouth
(18) Sunderland v Port Vale
(—) Tranmere v Notts County

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Barrow v Frickley; Boston v Emley, Chorley v Hyde; Droylsden v Bishop Auckland, Horwich v Colwyn Bay; Knowsley v Buxton, Marine v Guiseley; Morecambe v Accrington Stanley; Spennymoor v Witton, Whitley Bay v Matlock. First division: Alfreton v Ashton United, Caernarfon v Bamber Bridge, Congleton v Atherton L R, Eastwood Town v Blyth Spartans; Gt Harwood v Warrington; Gretna v Fleetwood, Harrogate Town v Curzon Ashton, Netherfield v Farsley Celtic, Radcliffe v Goole, Workington v Mossley, Worksop v Lancaster

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Brentwood v Burnham Ramblers, Eton Manor v Basildon, Ford v Southend Manor; Sawbridgeworth v East Ham.

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First division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesbro	27	14	7	6	41	25	49
Wolves	27	14	5	8	49	34	47
Bolton	28	13	8	7	44	30	47
Tranmere	28	13	7	8	43	31	46
Reading	28	12	8	8	33	27	44
Sheff Utd	28	11	9	8	44	31	42
Grimsby	*28*	*10*	*11*	*7*	*42*	*38*	*41*
Barnsley	28	12	5	9	32	31	41
Watford	28	10	11	7	29	28	41
Derby	27	10	9	8	33	27	39
Oldham	28	10	8	10	38	36	38
Luton	27	10	7	10	36	34	37
Millwall	27	9	10	8	34	32	37
Southend	28	10	5	13	29	48	35
Stoke	26	9	8	9	28	31	35
West Brom	28	9	7	12	25	34	34
Charlton	27	8	9	10	41	45	33
Port Vale	26	8	7	11	32	35	31
Sunderland	27	6	13	8	27	27	31
Portsmouth	28	7	9	12	28	41	30
Swindon	26	7	8	11	34	42	29
Burnley	25	6	9	10	27	36	27
Bristol City	28	7	6	15	22	37	27
Notts Cty	28	6	6	16	28	39	24

Second division

(19) Birmingham v Stockport
(20) Bradford v Shrewsbury
(21) Brighton v Brentford
(22) Cambridge Utd v Crewe
(23) Chester v Rotherham
(24) Huddersfield v Bristol Rovers
(25) Hull v Cardiff
(26) Leyton Orient v Peterborough
(27) Oxford Utd v Bournemouth
(28) Plymouth v York
(29) Swansea v *Wrexham*
(30) Wycombe v Blackpool

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brentford	27	16	3	8	54	24	51
Huddersf'ld	27	14	8	5	48	32	50
Birmingham	25	14	8	3	47	17	50
Wycombe	25	14	6	5	37	27	48
Oxford Utd	28	14	5	7	44	32	47
Crewe	26	14	4	8	52	45	46
Blackpool	27	13	3	11	46	48	42
Hull	27	12	6	9	43	38	42
Bristol R	23	11	9	3	41	21	42
Stockport	28	13	3	10	41	34	42
Bradford	26	11	6	9	35	36	39
York	25	11	5	9	36	25	38
Wrexham	23	10	7	6	42	32	37
Swansea	25	9	10	6	32	26	37
Rotherham	26	9	6	11	31	31	33
Peterbro	26	7	11	8	32	44	32
Camb Utd	28	7	9	12	38	51	30
Brighton	25	7	9	9	26	33	30
Shrewsbury	26	7	6	13	32	35	27
Plymouth	25	6	5	14	25	53	23
Cardiff	27	5	6	16	27	42	21
Bournem'th	28	4	7	17	25	54	19
Leyton O	26	4	5	17	18	41	17
Chester	27	3	5	19	17	50	14

Third division

(31) Barnet v Darlington
(32) Doncaster v Carlisle
(33) Fulham v Bury
(34) Gillingham v Lincoln
(35) *Hereford v Northampton*
(36) Preston v Chesterfield
(37) Rochdale v Hartlepool
(—) Scarborough v Exeter
(38) Scunthorpe v Colchester
(39) *Walsall v Mansfield*
(40) Wigan v Torquay

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Carlisle	26	18	7	1	48	17	61
Chesterfield	25	13	6	6	35	26	45
Walsall	23	12	7	4	42	24	43
Doncaster	26	12	7	7	34	21	43
Bury	22	12	6	4	32	16	42
Scunthorpe	26	12	5	9	45	34	41
Mansfield	26	12	4	10	52	39	40
Preston	26	12	4	10	34	27	40
Barnet	24	11	6	7	31	30	39
Torquay	26	10	7	9	36	35	37
Colchester	25	10	7	8	33	35	37
Fulham	26	8	11	7	31	31	35
Lincoln	24	9	5	10	30	28	32
Rochdale	25	8	6	11	32	48	30
Darlington	24	8	6	10	28	29	30
Wigan	24	7	5	12	33	39	26
Hartlepool	24	6	6	12	23	36	24
Exeter	24	6	5	13	18	36	23
Hereford	26	5	7	14	29	49	22
Northampton	25	4	9	12	20	33	21
Gillingham	23	5	5	13	25	35	20
Scarborough	24	4	5	15	26	45	17

Vauxhall Conference

(41) Bath v Kettering
(42) *Dagenham* and Red v Altrincham
(43) Farnborough v Stafford
(44) Halifax v Woking
(—) Kidderminster v Yeovil
(—) Macclesfield v Telford
(—) Merthyr v Stalybridge
(—) Northwich v Bromsgrove
(—) Runcorn v Dover
(—) Stevenage v Southport

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division

(45) Falkirk v Hearts
(46) Hibernian v Partick
(47) Kilmarnock v Aberdeen
(48) *Motherwell v Celtic*
(49) Rangers v Dundee Utd

First division

(50) Clydebank v St Johnstone
(51) Dundee v Dunfermline
(52) Hamilton v St Mirren
(53) Raith v Ayr
(54) *Stranraer v Airdrie*

Second division

(55) Berwick v *Dumbarton*
(56) East Fife v Clyde
(57) Greenock Morton v Brechin
(58) Meadowbank v Queen of South
(—) Stenhousemuir v Stirling

Third division

(—) Alloa v Arbroath
(—) *Cale Thistle v Forfar*
(—) Montrose v Ross County
(—) Queen's Park v Cowdenbeath

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Atherstone v Hednesford, Burton v Sudbury; Cheltenham v Halesowen, Corby v Chelmsford; Crawley v Leek; Dorchester v Gresley; Gravesend and Northfl v VS Rugby; Rushden and Diamonds v Sittingbourne, Solihull v Hastings, Trowbridge v Cambridge City, Worcester v Gloucester. Southern division: Ashford v Yate, Bashley v Wealdstone, Braintree v *Fareham, Bury Town v Salisbury, Clevedon* v Waterlooville: Erith and Belvedere v Burnham, Havant v Weston-super-Mare; Margate v Newport IoW, Poole v Fisher 93, Tonbridge AFC v Baldock, Witney v Weymouth. Midland division: Armitage v RC Warwick, Bedworth v Dudley; Bilston v Nuneaton, Bridgnorth v Tamworth, Buckingham Town v Redditch, Hinckley Town v Rothwell, King's Lynn v Moor Green, Leicester United v Forest Green, Newport AFC v Evesham, Stourbridge v Ilkeston, Sutton Coldfield v Grantham

FA VASE: Fifth round: Arlesey Town v Diss, Cammell Laird v *Burscough (2.30)*. Canvey Island v Stamco; Eastwood Hanley v Basildon United, Falmouth Town v Belper Town, Metropolitan Police v Hadleigh United; Raunds Town v St Andrews, Taunton v Oxford City

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Hatfield v Dunstable Old *Boys, Hoddesdon v Harpenden, Langford v* Potters Bar, Letchworth GC v Biggleswade, Royston v Wingate and Finchley. O'Brien Butchers *Premier division Cup: Quarter-finals:* Welwyn GC v Milton Keynes O'Brien Butchers Trophy: Third round: Shillington v Brache Sparta

DIADORA LEAGUE: Premier division: Aylesbury v Wokingham, Carshalton v Hitchin: Chesham v St Albans; Grays v Slough, Harrow v Bromley; Hendon v Walton and Hersham; Kingstonian v Enfield: Marlow v Dulwich; Molesey v Hayes, *Purfleet v Bishop's Stortford: Yeading v* Sutton United. First division: Barking v Heybridge Swifts, Basingstoke v Wivenhoe. Berkhamsted v Staines, Billericay v Chertsey; Bognor Regis v Whyteleafe, Boreham Wood v Wembley; Maidenhead v Abingdon Town, Newbury v Ruislip Manor, Tooting and Mitcham v Dorking, Uxbridge v Worthing. Second division: Aveley v Hampton: Banstead v Bracknell; Barton v Leatherhead; Chalfont St Peter v Windsor *and Eton, Cheshunt v Witham, Croydon v* Tilbury, Edgware v Saffron Walden; Egham v Hungerford, Hemel Hempstead v Thame. *Malden Vale v Ware. Third division:* Bedford Town v Leighton, Camberley v Collier Row, Cove v East Thurrock; Flackwell Heath v Northwood; Hertford v Harefield, Hornchurch v Tring, Horsham v Clapton, Lewes v Harlow, Southall v Epsom and Ewell

KONICA LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberyst*wyth v Ton Pentre*, Bangor City v Llansantffraid (2 30): Connah's Quay v Alan Lido, Conwy v Ebbw Vale, Cwmbran v Barry *(2 30), Flint Town v Rhyl; Llanelli v Caersws.* Newtown v Mold: Porthmadog v Holywell

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Amersham v Corinthian-Casuals, Barkingside v Cockfosters, Brook House v Brimsdown, Haringey v Beaconsfield Sycob, Tower Hamlets v St Margaretsbury, Waltham Abbey v Harwell, Willesden v *Walthamstow Pennant.* Cup: Third round: Hillingdon Borough v Croydon Athletic

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Barnstaple v *Mangotsfield: Frome v* Chippenham: Torrington v Calne, Westbury v Bideford, Paulton v Elmore

JEWSON LEAGUE: Premier division: Haverhill v Stowmarket: Histon v Great Yarmouth, Newmarket v March; Soham v Cornard Sudbury v Lowestoft, Watton v Tiptree, Wisbech v Felixstowe; Woodbridge *v Halstead*

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: AFC Lymington v Thatcham, *Aerostructures v Portsmouth, Eastleigh v* East Cowes Vics, Fleet v Bemerton Heath; Gosport v Brockenhurst, Horndean v Andover, Petersfield v AFC Totton; Ryde Sports v Wimborne, Swanage and Herston v Christchurch

SKOL MIDLAND FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Premier division: Highgate v Northfield, Meir KA v Knowle, Shirley v Alvechurch Villa, Studley BKL v Boldmere. Upton v Ansells. Challenge Cup: Second *round: Dudley Sports v G P T (Coventry).* Challenge Vase: Semi-finals: Archdale 73 v Continental Star, Ledbury v Richmond Swifts.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: East Grinstead v Wick; Hailsham v Arundel, Langney Sports v Southwick, Oakwood v Newhaven; Portfield v Crowborough; Shoreham v Eastbourne Town; Whitehawk v Pagham.

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Bicester v Highworth: Brackley v Tuffley; Cinderford v Abingdon; North Leigh v Carterton, Pegasus Juniors v Kintbury.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First *division: Canterbury v Dartford; Corinthian* v Faversham; Deal v Beckenham, Folkestone Invicta v Cray; Furness v Herne Bay; *Kent Police v Chatham, Ramsgate v* Tunbridge Wells, Sheppey v Greenwich, Thamesmead v Crockenhill, Whitstable v Darenth Heathside

HEREWARD SPORTS UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bourne v Newport Pagnell; Desborough v Wootton; Eynesbury v Mirrlees Blackstone; Holbeach *v Wellingborough; Northampton Spencer v* Boston, Potton v Long Buckby, S and L Corby v Cogenhoe

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Barwell v Rocester; Boldmere St M v Rushall, Chasetown v Brierley Hill, Halesowen Harriers v Stapenhill, Knypersley Victoria v Sandwell Borough; Oldbury v Pershore; Shepshed v Willenhall; Shifnal v Paget; Stratford v Bolehall Swifts; West Midlands Police v Hinckley Athletic.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier Division: Blowwich Strollers v Cradley, Gornal v Ludlow: Manders v Wednesfield, Pelsall Villa v Malvern; Stafford v Blakenall. Walsall Wood v Stourport Swifts, Westfields v Hill Top

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Arnold v Hucknall; Ash*field v Ossett Albion, Brigg v* Glasshoughton Welfare, Hallam v Pickering, Lincoln United v Denaby; Maltby MW *v Thackley; Ossett Town v Armthorpe* Welfare; Pontefract Colliery v Sheffield; Stocksbridge PS v North Ferriby. First division: Brodsworth MW v *Bildworth* Welfare, Garforth v Harrogate Railway, Hatfield Main v Hall Road; Immingham v Tadcaster, Parkgate v Louth, Selby v Rossington Main, Worsbrough Bridge v Eccleshill; Yorkshire Amateurs v Winterton

CARLING NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Bacup v Maine *Road; Bradford Park Avenue v Bootle,* Chadderton v Kidsgrove, Eastwood Hanley v Clitheroe, Nantwich v Trafford, Prescot v *Darwen; Rossendale v Blackpool Rovers,* Salford v St. Helens, Skelmersdale v Newcastle Town. Cup: Third round: Holker *Old Boys v Penrith. Lamot Pils Trophy:* Stantondale v Formby; Tetley Walker v Flixton

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Cork v Bohemians (7.15), Galway v Athlone (7 0)

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Bedlington Terriers v Billingham: Chester-le-Street v Prudhoe; Consett v West Auckland, Dunston FB v Tow Law, Ferryhill v Northallerton; Guisborough v Murton; Hebburn v Whitby; *Peterlee v Eppleton CW; Seaham Red Star* v Durham, Shildon v RTM Newcastle.

WILKINSON SWORD LEAGUE CUP: First round: Ards v Dungannon Swifts; *Ballyclare* v Queens University; Ballymena v Ballinamallard: Ballymoney v Carrick; Banbridge v Crusaders, Bangor v Cookstown, Brantwood v Omagh; Cliftonville v Moyola Park; Coleraine v H and W Welders; Distillery v Tobermore; Dundela v Newry; Glenavon v Limavady; Glentoran v *Loughgall Utd; Larne v RUC; Linfield v* Chimney Corner; Portadown v Armagh.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First *division: Cambridge Utd v Queens Park* Rangers; Fulham v Arsenal; Gillingham v Millwall; Ipswich v West Ham; Leyton Orient v Charlton; Norwich v Portsmouth, Southend v Watford, Tottenham v Chelsea. Second division: Bournemouth v Brentford, Bristol City v Swindon, Colchester v Crystal Palace, Oxford Utd v Brighton, Southampton v Luton; Wimbledon v Tottenham; Wycombe v Bristol Rovers

OLD BOYS' LEAGUE: Premier division: *Clapham v Chertsey; Old Aloysians v Old* Hamptonians. Senior first division: Old Kingsburians v Old Wokingians: Old Salvatorians v Phoenix; Latymer v Old Tiffinians; Old Suttonians v Shene. Senior second division: Old Westhamians v Old Ignatians; Old Manorians v Old Tollingtonians: Old Camdenians v Old Minchendenians, Old Meadonians v Old Vaughanians, Old Southallians v Enfield; Mill Hill City v J Fisher. Senior Cup: Cardinal Manning v Glyn; Old Danes v Old Meadonians. Invitation Senior Cup: Old Salesians v Old Tenisonians.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: *Midland* Bank v Civil Service; Winchmore Hill v West Wickham, Norsemen v Old Actonians. *Broomfield v Lensbury; Alexandra Park v* Old Bromleians; Old Westminster Citizens v Polytechnic; Old Parkonians v Carshalton. Few Association v Old Stationers; *Alleyn* OB v Brentham; Southgate Olympic v Ibis; Bank of England v Old Lyonians; Reigate Priory v Barclays Bank.

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior One: Old Grammarians v Mill Hill Village, Parkfield v Witan; Wandsworth Borough v Southgate County. Senior Two: Corinthian-*Casuals v Ealing Association, Hale End v* Hadley, Old Fairlopians v Old Bealonians, Old Finchleians v Duncombe Sports.

AFA SENIOR CUP: Third round: Westerns v Crouch End Vampires, Old Foresters v Old Latymerians; East Barnet Old Grammarians v NatWest Bank; Wake Green v St Mary's College, Old Chigwellians v South Bank Poly. Third round replay: Old Isleworthians v Cuaco

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Carthusians v Malvernians, Lancing v Etonians, Reptonians v Wellingburians. First division: Ardinians v Salopians; *Bradfieldians v Cholmeleians;* Westminsters v Harrovians.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: English Schools Fujifilm Trophy: Fifth round: Aldershot v Newport (10 30) FA Premier League Trophy: Under-16: South Yorkshire v West Yorkshire (10.30) English Schools Snickers Trophy: Under-19: All Saints, Merseyside v Winstanley College, Greater Manchester (10.30) Under-16: King's Norton, West Midlands v Alderman Smith, *Warwickshire (10.30).* Welsh Schools Shield: Quarter-finals: Wrexham v Kirkby Knowsley; Flint v Anglesy (10.30). London *Gill Cup: Havering v Newham (10 30)*

OTHER SPORT

ATHLETICS: AAA indoor championships (Birmingham) BUSA cross-country championships *(Wythenshawe Sports* Ground, Manchester).

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Derby v Leicester (8 0); Hemel v Thames Valley (7 30); Sunderland v Chester (7.30): Worthing v *London (8 0)*

BOXING: World Boxing Organisation featherweight championship: Steve Robinson (GB, holder) v Domingo Dangelle (Arg) (Cardiff Ice Rink).

LACROSSE: Daily Telegraph Lancashire Cup: Semi-finals: Oldham and Werneth v Ashton A; Boardman and Eccles A v Hulmeans A. Stockport Cup: Cheadle Hulme A v Sale A, Cheadle B v Stockport A. *Daily Telegraph Junior Flags: Semi-finals:* Cheadle A v Cheadle Hulme, Hulmeians v Rochdale.

VOLLEYBALL: Men: First division: Wessex v Reebok Liverpool (6.30), Whitefield v Polonia Ealing (7.0); Warwick Riga v Newcastle Staffs (6.30); Camden Aquila v Mizuno Malory Lewisham (5.0).

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 2.30 unless stated

Five nations' championship

England v France
(at Twickenham)
Scotland v *Ireland*
(at Murrayfield)

Swalec Cup
Fifth round

Ebbw Vale v Old Illtydians
Seven Sisters v *Blackwood*
South Wales Pol v Old Penarthians
Tenby Utd v Aberavon P
Whitland v Mountain Ash

Heineken League
First division

Bridgend v Abertillery
Llanelli v Cardiff
Neath v Newbridge
Pontypridd v Newport
Swansea v Dunvant
Treorchy v Pontypool

Second division

Aberavon v Tenby Utd
Abercynon v Maesteg
Cross Keys v Penarth
Narberth v Llanharan

Third division

Blaina v *Pontypool Utd*
Builth Wells v Tondu
Caerphilly v Ystradgynlais
Tredegar v *Glamorgan Wanderers*

Club matches

Aberdeen GSFP v Gordonians (12 0)
Berry Hill v *Bridgwater and Albion*
Birmingham/Sol v Worcester (12.30)
Corstorphine v Suttonians (11.30) C
Durham City v Newcastle Gosforth
Fylde v Morley (1.0)
Grangemouth v Livingston (11.30)
Harlequins v Nottingham (12.0)
Havant v Clifton (12.30)
Hereford v Wolverhampton
Hull Ionians v *West Hartlepool (2.15)*
Liverpool St Helens v Waterloo
London Welsh v Blackheath (11.30)
N Walsham v Bury St Edmunds (1.0)
Orrell v Wakefield
Otley v Sheffield (3.0)
Reading v Ealing (2.45)
Richmond v Met Police (11.30)
Rugby v Gloucester (12.30)
Saracens v Bedford (12 0)
Stirling County
v Glasgow Acads (11 30) C
Sudbury v Thurrock
Tabard v Finchley
Walsall v Cheltenham (12.30)
Wharfedale v Tynedale

HOCKEY

NASTRO AZZURRO LEAGUE: Premier League: Anchorians v Fareham, Chichester *v City of Portsmouth; High Wycombe v* Ashford: Lyons v Lewes, Old Kingstonians v Gore Court, Old Whitgiftians v Maidenhead. *Spencer v Oxford Hawks, Staines v Dulwich,* Wimbledon v Old Walcountians; Woking v Winchester. Regionals: Hampshire/Surrey: Barnes v *Old Edwardians*, Basingstoke v Hamble OB, Epsom v Bournemouth, Fleet v Petersfield, Old Mid-Whitgiftians v Oxted: Oxshott v London University; Pirelli v Camberley, Purley v Lensbury; Southampton Tauntonians v Merton, Weybridge Hawks v Cheam. Kent/Sussex: Belvedere v Greenwich; Blackheath v Bexleyheath; Brighton v *Bognor, Crawley v Tunbridge Wells; Graves*end v Beckenham, Herne Bay v Tulse Hill, Horsham v Old Holcombeians, Marden Russets v Mid Sussex, Middleton v Sevenoaks, Old Bordenians v Old Williamsonians. Middx/Berks/Bucks and *Oxon: City of Oxford v Headington; Eastcote* v Amersham, Gerrards Cross v Wokingham, Hayes v Richings Park, HCC v Sunbury, *Hendon v Aylesbury; Marlow v Bracknell, Mill* Hill v Ramgarhia, Milton Keynes v OMT, Newbury v P H C Chiswick.

NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Stockton v Timperley; Warrington v Blackburn; Formby v Ben Rhydding, Southport v Harrogate, Hightown-Northern v Norton

NORWICH UNION EAST LEAGUE: Pre*mier division A:* Bishop's Stortford v Blueharts, Colchester v Dereham, Ipswich v Luton, Peterborough Town v Cambridge *University, Redbridge and Ilford v Chelms*ford. Premier division B: Bedford v Pelicans, Bury St Edmunds v Romford, Old *Southendian v Ipswich and East Suffolk,* Stevenage v Sudbury, Westcliff v Norwich City.

DTZ THORPE MIDLAND LEAGUE: Pre*mier division:* Hampton in Arden v Lichfield, Harborne v Bloxwich; Khalsa v Leicester Westleigh, Nottingham v North Notts, Olton and West Warwickshire v Belper.

SUN LIFE LEAGUE: Premier League: Bath Buccaneers v Weston; Swansea v Hereford, Taunton Vale v Plymouth; West Glos v Exeter University; West Wilts v Cheltenham.

WOMEN: *National indoor club championships (Crystal Palace)*

CLUB MATCHES: Bournemouth v City of Portsmouth; Canterbury v St Albans, Clifton v St Austell, Bradford v Chester, Cheltenham v Reading, Crimson Ramblers v Don Valley; K H Pickwick v Sherwood, Sunderland Bedans v Whitley Bay, West Witney v Hampton, Winchester v Southampton Tauntonians

RUGBY LEAGUE

AMATEUR YOUTH INTERNATIONAL: *Great Britain v France (Whitehaven 7 0)*

BNFL NATIONAL CUP: Third round: Underbank v Keighley Albion.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Igls	10	95	good	varied	fair	cloud	1	30/1
(Upper runs good, return pistes to the valley icy)								
Kitzbühel	50	100	good	varied	fair	fine	2	31/1
(Good skiing on uncrowded pistes, still some powder)								
Obergurgl	*60*	*135*	*good*	*varied*	*good*	fine	-1	30/1
(Crisp snow on all pistes, great weather)								
Schladming	50	110	good	varied	icy	fine	1	29/1
(Higher pistes good but hard, lower getting icy)								
FRANCE								
Chamonix	70	535	good	varied	good	fine	3	30/1
(Great skiing on and off piste, pistes very quiet)								
Courchevel	145	280	good	varied	good	fine	-6	30/1
(Pistes excellent, all runs and 3 vallees links open)								
La Plagne	160	280	good	varied	good	sun	1	30/1
(Excellent skiing everywhere, all areas now open)								
Megève	90	289	good	varied	good	fine	2	30/1
(Excellent skiing, brilliant sunshine, no queues)								
SWITZERLAND								
Grindelwald	30	170	good	varied	good	fine	-1	30/1
(Superb skiing on well maintained pistes)								
Verbier	45	170	good	crust	worn	fine	-4	30/1
(Piste skiing still excellent, moguls growing daily)								
Wengen	30	100	good	varied	good	fine	3	30/1
(All pistes excellent but a touch icy low down)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

FA Carling Premiership

Tottenham v *Blackburn (4 0)*

Endsleigh Insurance League

First division

West Brom v Charlton (2 55)

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Liskeard v Bridport.

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Shamrock v St Patrick's Ath (2 45), Sligo v Derry (3.0)

FAI HARP LAGER CUP: First round. Douglas H v Monaghan (2.30)

FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: National division: Wolverhampton v *Ilkeston; Liverpool FC* Ladies v Leasowe Pacific, Millwall *Lionesses* v Wembley; Red Star Southampton v Croydon. Northern division. Bronte v Solihull, Ipswich v Langford. Nottingham Argyle v *Kidderminster, St Helens* Garswood v Cowgate Kestrels, Villa Aztecs v Sheffield Wednesday. Southern division: Brentford v Town and Country. Horsham v Brighton and Hove: Maidstone Tigresses v *Oxford Utd.*

TENNIS

VAUXHALL INDOOR TROPHY: Seventh round: Area three: Edgbaston Priory v *Long Road Cambridge, Lincoln Indoor* v Lavenham Norwich. Area four: Clearview Brentwood v Batchwood St Albans, Ealing v Connaught. Area six: Carlton v Oakleigh Park. David Lloyd Finchley v Chris Lane *Woking, Royal Berkshire* v BBC. Area eight: Match Point Southampton v David Lloyd Eastbourne, Pavilion and Avenue Hove v West Hants Bournemouth

RUGBY UNION

CIS county championship

Quarter-final

Gloucestershire v Surrey
(at Cheltenham, 2 30)

CIS under-21 divisional championship

South and South West
v *London and South East*
(at Exeter, 2 15)
Midlands v North
(at Burton, 2.30)

Representative match

London Schools v N Zealand Schools
(Grange Road, Cambridge, 3.0)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Bitter championship

Featherstone v Wakefield (3.30)
Halifax v Salford (3.0)
Oldham v Hull (3 0)
Sheffield v St Helens (3.15)
Warrington v Doncaster (3 0)
Wigan v Castleford (3.0)
Workington v Bradford (3.0)

Second division

Barrow v Whitehaven (2 30)
Batley v London Broncos (3.15)
Highfield v Dewsbury (3 0)
Hull K R v Huddersfield (3.15)
Hunslet v Rochdale (3.0)
Keighley v Bramley (3.15)
Leigh v Ryedale York (3 0)
Swinton v Carlisle (3.0)

AMATEUR INTERNATIONAL: Great Britain *v France 5 (at Boulevard, Hull, 7 0)*

HOCKEY

National League
First division

Canterbury v Hounslow
Guildford v Slough
Indian Gymkhana v Trojans

SECOND DIVISION: Cambridge City v Bromley: Doncaster v Harleston Magpies, Edgbaston v Crostyx; Gloucester City v Isca, Oxford University v Barford Tigers; Richmond v Neston, Sheffield v Brooklands, St Albans v Beeston, Whitchurch v Hampstead and Westminster

HA TROPHY: Second round: Alderley Edge v Springfields, *Bexley Invicta v Lincoln* Imps, Bowdon v Robinsons, Camberley v Shefford, Coalville v Barclays Bank, Derby v West Derby, Ipswich and East Suffolk v Bradford, Lloyds Bank v John Player. Long Sutton v *Kings Heath/Pickwic.* Marlborough v Durham University, Old Holcombeians v Blossomfield, Oxton v Shrewsbury, Penzance v Norwich Union; Ramgarhia (Leeds) v Blackheath, Rotherham v Bradfield *College, Wokingham v Kettering.*

WOMEN: National indoor club championships (Crystal Palace)

CLUB MATCHES: Ben Rhydding v Newcastle; Bradford v York, St Fagans v Leominster.

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Chester v Sheffield (6.0): Doncaster v Derby (5 30)

LACROSSE: Daily Telegraph Senior *Flags: Semi-final: Stockport v Cheadle.*

SNOOKER. Benson and Hedges Masters (Wembley)

Mastermind who is one jump ahead

What is the secret of Yogi Breisner's teaching? **Jamie Osborne** has been working with him

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Breisner demonstrates some of the finer points of riding technique to an entertained staff at Henrietta Knight's yard near Wantage this week

When Kim Bailey, the Upper Lambourn trainer, was asked about the apparent transformation in the jumping ability of his Gold Cup favourite, Master Oats, he was quick to acknowledge the invaluable input of the Swedish event rider-turned-trainer, Yogi Breisner.

Anyone reading the racing press of late cannot fail to have noticed Breisner's name appearing with increasing regularity alongside some of our top horses, such as Large Action, Coulton, Black Humour and, of course, Master Oats. He now works regularly with a growing group of leading trainers, including Bailey, Oliver Sherwood, Charlie Brooks and Henrietta Knight.

It was Knight, herself an experienced event rider, who first recognised Breisner's talents as an educator of both horse and rider and saw the benefit of applying them to her racehorses and, fortunately for me, to her jockeys. His role is now one of a consultant who is brought in to assist the trainers with the jumping education of their horses.

"It is not that trainers and jockeys do not know how horses should jump, or how to school them. Of course they do," Breisner said. "They have done it for centuries and done a very good job of it, but the fact is that four eyes will see more than two. I am an extra pair of eyes that can draw on my experience in the eventing world to see where I might be able to improve a horse's jumping technique and, therefore, increase its chance of winning races. The whole exercise is a team effort between the trainer, the jockey and myself."

Breisner's experience is considerable. He rode for the Swedish national event team for 12 years and has trained some of the world's top riders. For the majority of his riding career, he was based at the Waterstock Training Centre near Oxford, working with another Swede, Lars Sederholm.

"I feel I am fortunate to have been connected for 13 years with Lars, who is one of the most brilliant trainers of horses and riders in the world," he said. Now Breisner is using his experience to benefit racehorses and jockeys. His approach is nothing new, but his feel for exactly what a horse requires for improvement is his real strength.

Some of the education will be done on the schooling ground, but Breisner likes to combine this with the use of show jumps. "I am not trying to make showjumpers out of the racehorses," he said. "We use the show jumps because you can move them around to suit the different requirements a horse has, in order to get him to understand what you want him to do." Breisner knows that a horse's understanding is the integral part of what we are all trying to achieve. "Sometimes a horse gets it wrong and doesn't know why. What we do is to allow the horse a chance to understand why he is getting it wrong so then, in his own mind, he can work out how to get it right."

He is a firm believer that schooling is an on-going exercise: "Training horses in jumping and keeping their jumping up to scratch is exactly the same as fitness work. Just because a horse is fit enough to win a race one day does not mean you can turn him out in a field for a month and he would win again.

"It is exactly the same with the jumping. Just because a horse with a jumping problem has put in a perfect round, it does not mean the problem is solved — it just means one has to continue the work along the same lines in order to keep it up to scratch."

Breisner, 40, has a quiet, almost shy demeanour, but when he speaks, you have to listen, whether it be about horses or any other subject. His approach to teaching is calm and logical; he delivers instruction and advice with an air of confidence that transmits itself to those with whom he is working.

While the eventing world still takes up 70 per cent of his time, his enthusiasm for racing is obvious. He has never sought any publicity or recognition for what he does; for him, the satisfaction lies in the job itself.

"My interest is not to see my name in print. Where I get my enjoyment is when one gets a team of people together, they all scratch their heads in an attempt to solve a problem, and if the outcome works, that gives me a tremendous amount of satisfaction," he said.

I have, in the past few seasons, been fortunate enough to work closely with Breisner, as have several other jockeys, including Graham Bradley, Norman Williamson and Richard Dunwoody. He has had a significant influence on my riding, instilling the importance of mutual confidence between horse and rider.

Bradley, who won the Gold Cup on Bregawn in 1983, knows Breisner's talents as well as anybody. When Bradley went to Ireland last week to school tomorrow's Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup hope, Merry Gale, he took Breisner with him for advice.

"The man is a genius," Bradley said. "His psychology with both horse and rider is incredible. He inspires you with confidence."

Breisner has been referred to as a guru and a wizard. These words suggest there is some sort of mystique to his methods. He has also met with some scepticism from certain racing quarters, scepticism based on ignorance.

Those of us who have worked with him know the value of his methods. He applies a refreshing, commonsense approach to a subject in which he is an expert. There is no mystique to Yogi Breisner.

Boutin obituary, page 19

SANDOWN PARK

THUNDERER

1.20 Bayariyka
1.50 Thumbs Up
2.25 **LAND AFAR** (nap)
3.00 High Baron
3.35 Whispering Steel
4.10 Dominant Serenade
4.40 Furletto

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.35 **EARTH SUMMIT.**

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 .... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: HEAVY (SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

1.20 RIPLEY FOUR-YEAR-OLD NOVICES HURDLE
(£3,680: 2m 110yd) (11 runners)

101	26	AMANCIO 7 (P Locke) G Harwood 11-0	M Perrett	[illegible]
102	00	BOWCLIFFE 7 (Million In Mind Pnrs) J Gifford 11-0	P Hide	–
103	36	DOCTOR DEATH 36 (R Whitaker) M Dixon 11-0	J Osborne	–
104	3F	RYAN GIGGS 101 (Mrs C Barclay) A Jarvis 11-0	N Williamson	71
105	0P	STRONG PROMISE 17 (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 11-0	Richard Guest	64
106	551	SOPHIE MAY 36 (S) (J Daniels) M Dixon 10-13	D O'Sullivan	92
107		DIXIT DOMINUS 252F (Miss B Swire) G Balding 10-10	B Clifford	–
108	3	BAYARIYKA 28 (Million In Mind Pnrs) N Henderson 10-9	M A Fitzgerald	84
109	256	JOSIFINA 54 (A Shenston) M McCormack 10-9	J Railton	89
110	5	LALINDI 21 (White Horse Racing Ltd) D Elsworth 10-9	P Holley	–
111	0	TURRET 67 (Ms T Hartwell) R Brotherton 10-9	L Harvey	–

BETTING: 2-1 Bayariyka, 9-2 Amancio, Sophie May, 6-1 Lalindi, 7-1 Ryan Giggs, 10-1 Doctor Death, Bowcliffe, 14-1 others.

1994: DEVILS DEN 4-11-4 R Dunwoody (1-2 fav) M Pipe 10 ran

1.50 ELMBRIDGE HANDICAP CHASE (£6,873: 2m) (5 runners)

201	13-1444	UNCLE ERNIE 21 (CD,G,S) (Lady Lloyd Webber) Jimmy Fitzgerald 10-11-10	J Osborne	97
202	25P/00-4	CYPHRATE 28 (D,G,S) (Alfas Smith & Jones Racing) M Pipe 9-11-10	M Perrett	95
203	832-3P1	THUMBS UP 14 (D,F,S) (M Buckley) N Henderson 9-11-3	M A Fitzgerald	[illegible]
204	11240-3	HERE HE COMES 22 (G,S) (F Wilson) A Moore 9-10-4	A P McCoy (3)	91
205	2324-11	KIBREET 22 (D,F,G,S) (D Simester) L Cottrell 8-10-0	N Williamson	94

Long handicap: Kibreet 9-9.

BETTING: 9-4 Thumbs Up, 11-4 Kibreet, 3-1 Uncle Ernie, 7-2 Cyphrate, 6-1 Here He Comes.

1994: STORM ALERT 8-11-7 S McNeill (7-4) A Turnell 5 ran

2.25 AGFA HURDLE (£10,211: 2m 110yd) (7 runners)

C4

301	5/111-	BOKARO 512 (D,G,S) (Exors of Lady Joseph) C Brooks 9-11-8	G Bradley	–
302	221312	ABSALOM'S LADY 22 (B,D,BF,G,S) (Whitcombe Manor) D Elsworth 7-11-5	P Holley	85
303	5P2-354	LAND AFAR 39 (CD,G,S) (T Ford) J Webber 8-11-4	G McCourt	88
304	21101-2	BALLET ROYAL 136 (G,S) (H Manners) H Manners 6-11-0	M Appleby	57
305	1-11114	KINGSFOLD PET 21 (D,G,S) (G Nye) M Haynes 6-11-0	D Skyrme	55
306	0132-	SMUGGLER'S POINT 206F (D,F) (Four Bars Racing) M Dixon 5-11-0	D O'Sullivan	50
307	3342-20	MOLE BOARD 7 (CD,F,G,S) (W Sturt) J Old 13-10-9	T Grantham	[illegible]

BETTING: 5-4 Absalom's Lady, 7-4 Land Afar, 6-1 Bokaro, 8-1 Mole Board, 10-1 Kingsfold Pet, 14-1 Smuggler's Point, 20-1 Ballet Royal.

1994: MUSE 7-11-10 P Holley (13-8 fav) D Elsworth 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

BOKARO beat Alluted 8l in 15-runner hurdle at Auteuil (2m 3f 110yd, heavy). ABSALOM'S LADY best recent hurdle effort beat Atours neck in the 6-runner grade I Bonusprint Christmas Hurdle at Kempton (2m, soft) with LAND AFAR (6lb better off) 3l and neck 4th. BALLET ROYAL ½l 2nd of 9 to Society Guest in amateurs handicap hurdle at Chepstow (2m 110yd, good to soft). KINGSFOLD PET beat Blast Freeze 3l in 6-runner handicap hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, heavy) on penultimate start. SMUGGLER'S POINT 3l 3rd of 9 to Admiral's Well in handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m, good to firm) on penultimate start. MOLE BOARD 3½l 2nd of 3 to Vasiliev in conditions hurdle at Leicester (2m, soft) on penultimate start.
Selection: ABSALOM'S LADY

3.00 SCILLY ISLES NOVICES CHASE
(Grade I: £22,715: 2m 4f 110yd) (8 runners)

C4

401	100-131	BO KNOWS BEST 17 (F,S) (D Humphreys) G L Moore 6-11-6	M Richards	62
402	64-2021	DENVER BAY 36 (S) (B Naylor) J Gifford 8-11-6	P Hide	61
403	014-111	HIGH BARON 14 (D,F,G,S) (Miss C James) R Alner 8-11-6	J Osborne	[illegible]
404	11U251	PETOSKU 47 (D,G,S) (F Mills) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-6	M A Fitzgerald	82
405	/332/24-	PROPERO 371 (G,S) (Mrs S Willis) J Gifford 10-11-6	E Murphy	79
406	2F3210	TUG OF PEACE 82 (G,S) (P Richardson) G Balding 8-11-6	A P McCoy	–
407	024/312	YEOMAN WARRIOR 28 (S) (Mrs H Alwen) R Rowe 8-11-6	N Williamson	72
408	221111	BANJO 28 (B,D,S) (D Mercer) M Pipe 5-10-10	A Maguire	80

BETTING: 6-4 High Baron, 9-4 Banjo, 6-1 Petosku, Yeoman Warrior, 8-1 Denver Bay, 10-1 Tug Of Peace, Bo Knows Best. 12-1 others.

1994: BAYDON STAR 7-11-6 R Dunwoody (6-4 fav) D Nicholson 4 ran

FORM FOCUS

BO KNOWS BEST beat Evening Riot 4l in runner novice chase at Windsor (2m 5f, soft). DENVER BAY beat Big Bad Wolf distance in novice chase at Folkestone (2m 5f, soft). HIGH BARON beat Butler's Twitch distance in 2-runner novice chase at Kempton (2m, heavy). PETOSKU beat Too Plush 20l in novice chase at Lingfield (2m 4f 110yd, heavy). PROPERO 16l 4th of 10 to Monsieur Le Cure in novice handicap chase at Cheltenham (2m 5f, soft). TUG OF PEACE beat Coromandel 8l in conditions chase at Fairyhouse (2m 6f, yielding to soft). YEOMAN WARRIOR 3l 2nd of 8 to Montebel in novice chase over course and distance (good to soft). BANJO beat Rainham distance in 3-runner novice chase at Haydock (2m, soft).
Selection: HIGH BARON

3.35 AGFA DIAMOND CHASE
(Limited handicap: grade II: £19,560: 3m 110yd) (11 runners)

C4

501	RU51F-3	ROYAL ATHLETE 14 (D,F,G,S) (G & L Johnson) Mrs J Pitman 12-11-12	W Marston	93
502	20P-501	DEEP BRAMBLE 28 (C,D,G,S) (P Barber) P Nicholls 8-11-10	C Maude	91
503	1-51P21	EARTH SUMMIT 14 (B,D,G,S) (Summit Pnrs) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-9	J Osborne	[illegible]
504	UP-21P1	WHISPERING STEEL 22 (D,G,S) (J Gitlow) K Bailey 9-11-5	N Williamson	91
505	PR4-262	RIVERSIDE BOY 28 (V,D,G,S) (Bisgrove Partnership) M Pipe 12-11-2	A Maguire	93
506	1012/64	COUNTRY MEMBER 49 (CD,G,S) (Mrs C Williams) A Turnell 10-11-1	L Harvey	85
507	636-3F4	COOL GROUND 28 (C,D,G,S) (Whitcombe Manor Ltd) D Elsworth 13-10-7	P Holley	91
508	51P3P-2	SUPERIOR FINISH 22 (D,G,S) (G Hentrey) Mrs J Pitman 9-10-7	G Bradley	88
509	32102-6	JUST SO 23 (D,S) (H Cole) H Cole 12-10-7	B Powell	80
510	30-2514	ANNIO CHILONE 23 (CD,G,S) (Miss J Semple) J Gifford 9-10-7	L Aspell (7)	73
511	3-U3152	SCOLE 14 (G,S) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 10-10-7	Richard Guest	69

Long handicap: Cool Ground 10-6, Superior Finish 10-6, Just So 10-0, Annio Chilone 9-10, Scole 8-9.

BETTING: 4-1 Earth Summit, 9-2 Royal Athlete, 5-1 Superior Finish, Whispering Steel, 11-2 Deep Bramble, 6-1 Country Member, 12-1 Cool Ground, Riverside Boy, 33-1 Just So, 50-1 Annio Chilone, Scole.

1994: SECOND SCHEDUAL 9-10-7 R Dunwoody (6-1) D Nicholson 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

DEEP BRAMBLE beat RIVERSIDE BOY (3lb better off) 1¼l in handicap chase here (3m 5f 110yd, good to soft) with COOL GROUND (2lb better off) ½l and neck 4th. EARTH SUMMIT beat Chatam 1¼l in the 4-runner grade II Peter Marsh Handicap Chase at Haydock (3m, heavy). WHISPERING STEEL beat SUPERIOR FINISH (1lb worse off) 1¼l in 5-runner handicap chase at Ascot (3m 110yd, good). COUNTRY MEMBER 12¾l 4th of 8 to Raymylette in handicap chase at Ascot (3m 110yd, good); COOL GROUND (1lb better off) fell 3 out and WHISPERING STEEL (1lb worse off) pulled up before last. ANNIO CHILONE 19¼l 4th of 15 to Mr Flanagan in handicap chase at Wincanton (3m 1f 110yd, good) with JUST SO (16lb better off) 20l 6th. Previously beat Tammy's Friend ¾l in handicap chase at Folkestone (3m 2f, good to soft). SCOLE 1l 2nd of 7 to Bibendum in handicap chase at Kempton (2m 4f 110yd, heavy).
Selection: EARTH SUMMIT (nap)

4.10 SANDOWN HANDICAP HURDLE
(Grade III: £13,085: 2m 6f) (12 runners)

C4

601	121112	ALLEGATION 40 (V,D,BF,G,S) (Martin Pipe Racing Club) M Pipe 5-11-10	A Maguire	91
602	002-345	OLYMPIAN 25 (B,C,D,F,G) (M & N Plant Ltd) R Simpson 8-11-5	A P McCoy (3)	89
603	345343	MEDITATOR 7 (C,D,G,S) (Miss J Doyle) Miss J Doyle 11-11-2	J Osborne	[illegible]
604	5-3FF65	DOMINANT SERENADE 19 (G,S) (N Brison Racing) M Hammond 6-11-1	N Williamson	93
605	6630-03	JEASSU 14 (F,G,S) (Mrs J Mills) A J Wilson 12-11-1	D Leahy (3)	88
606	/21/3-05	TRUTH BE TOLD 22 (S) (Pell-mell Partners) J Gifford 11-10-12	P Hide	95
607	5-F5211	BURNT IMP 21 (F,G,S) (N Mason (Farms) Ltd) G Moore 5-10-10	J Callaghan	90
608	24-4146	MISTER DRUM 21 (G,S) (M Batchelor) M Wilkinson 6-10-7	G McCourt	92
609	0136-65	FRIENDLY FELLOW 40 (BF,S) (The Radio Three) D Elsworth 6-10-0	P Holley	90
610	04F/11	MIRACLE MAN 28 (D,S) (P Evans) C Weedon 7-10-0	Peter Hobbs	98
611	P2F-213	MR PICKPOCKET 29 (S) (R Sayer) J Akehurst 7-10-0	G Bradley	85
612	234-124	WITH IMPUNITY 54 (G,S) (Guest Leasing Co Ltd) N Twiston-Davies 6-10-0	C Maude	83

Long handicap: Miracle Man 9-13, Mr Pickpocket 9-11, With Impunity 9-6.

BETTING: 3-1 Burnt Imp, 4-1 Miracle Man, 6-1 Allegation, 8-1 Meditator, 10-1 Jeassu, Mr Pickpocket, Olympian, 12-1 Friendly Fellow, 16-1 Dominant Serenade, Mister Drum, 33-1 Truth Be Told, With Impunity.

1994: DARK HONEY 9-9-11 A Dicken (8-1) S Dow 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

ALLEGATION beat Capeoway 15l in 7-runner handicap hurdle at Warwick (3m 4f 110yd, good) on penultimate start with IMPUNITY (6lb better off) 40l 4th. OLYMPIAN about 4½l 4th of 7 to Relkeel in the grade II William Hill Handicap Hurdle here (2m 110yd, good to soft) on penultimate start. MEDITATOR 13l 3rd of 7 to Mudahim in the grade I Cleeve Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 5f 110yd, heavy). DOMINANT SERENADE 22l 5th of 13 to Express Gift in handicap hurdle at Carlisle (2m 1f, soft). JEASSU 15½l 3rd of 7 to Ask The Governor in handicap hurdle at Kempton (2m 5f, heavy). BURNT IMP beat Auburn Castle 1¼l in 17-runner handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 5f 110yd, good to soft). MISTER DRUM best effort this term beat Zealous Kitten 3l in 14-runner handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (3m 1f, good to soft) with FRIENDLY FELLOW (5lb better off) about 3½l 6th. MIRACLE MAN beat Crystal Bear short-head in 24-runner handicap hurdle at Warwick (2m 4f 110yd, soft) with MEDITATOR (6lb better off) distance 4th and JEASSU (3lb better off) well beaten 8th. MR PICKPOCKET beat Nick The Beak 2½l in 15-runner handicap hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m 4f 110yd, soft) on penultimate start.
Selection: OLYMPIAN

4.40 FEBRUARY MAIDEN HURDLE
(£3,191: 2m 6f) (15 runners)

C4

1	0	AMAZING MAN 17 (S) (G Porter) Mrs M McCourt 6-11-7	G McCourt	–
2	5P	CALL ME RIVER 19 (Larkin Around Pnrs) P Hedger 7-11-7	M Richards	–
3		CAPTAIN COE (Heart of the South Racing) J Fitch-Heyes 5-11-7	A P McCoy (3)	–
4	0P0	EYRE POINT 23 (Mallcom Plc) Mrs J Pitman 6-11-7	W Marston	–
5	003222	FAST RUN 37 (BF,F) (I McGready) J Mullins 7-11-7	S Righton (7)	78
6	23-0422	FREDDIE MUCK 7 (Mrs C Twiston-Davies) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-7	J Osborne	90
7	000-33F	FURIETTO 28 (Million In Mind Pnrs) D Nicholson 5-11-7	M A Fitzgerald	90
8		GRASS ISLAND (B McHugh) A Jarvis 5-11-7	G Bradley	–
9	/4F32-P	KALAKATE 102 (Four Bars Racing Club) M Dixon 10-11-7	D O'Sullivan	86
10	00322-	MR GLYNN 257 (J Gordon) K Bailey 6-11-7	N Williamson	–
11	1-0432	NATIVE ALLIANCE 36 (BF,S) (Mrs L Sewell) M Pipe 5-11-7	J Lower	[illegible]
12	0FR020	PETTAUGH 21 (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 7-11-7	Richard Guest	87
13	0501-44	RIVER LEVEN 37 (B,BF,S) (R Brinkworth) D Gandolfo 6-11-7	D Leahy (3)	79
14	3200-22	MILLMOUNT 37 (B) (Eastridge Racing) T McGovern 5-11-2	F Leahy (5)	87
15		ROSE OF MACMILLION 860F (D Jones & Co) Mrs B Waring 6-11-2	D Matthews (5)	–

BETTING: 4-1 Freddie Muck, 5-1 Furietto, 7-1 Native Alliance, 8-1 River Leven, Mr Glynn, Millmount, 12-1 others.

1994: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

EYRE POINT 27l 8th of 19 to Lightening Lad in novice hurdle at Wincanton (2m, good). FREDDIE MUCK 15l 2nd of 21 to Fourth In Line in novice handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, heavy). FURIETTO 4¾l 3rd of 12 to Falmouth bay in novice hurdle at Towcester (2m, soft). KALAKATE 2l 2nd of 16 to Shankea in claiming hurdle at Plumpton (2m 4f, good to firm) on penultimate start. MR GLYNN 1½l 2nd of 19 to Marfield in National Hunt Flat race at Roscommon (2m, good). NATIVE ALLIANCE 8l 2nd of 10 to Go Ballistic in novice hurdle at Leicester (2m, heavy). RIVER LEVEN 11l 4th of 10 to Billygoat Gruff in novice hurdle at Nottingham (2m 5f 110yd, good) on penultimate start. MILLMOUNT 7l 2nd of 18 to Gives A Call in novice hurdle at Fontwell (2m 6f, soft) with CALL ME RIVER distance 5th.
Selection: MILLMOUNT

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rns	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
A Turnell	6	15	40.0	J Lower	3	7	42.9
G Harwood	6	17	35.3	A Maguire	17	75	22.7
D Nicholson	25	75	33.3	L Harvey	5	24	20.8
Jimmy Fitzgerald	4	13	30.8	G McCourt	5	25	20.0
R Simpson	3	12	25.0	P Hide	7	36	19.4
M Pipe	15	76	19.7	C Maude	3	17	17.6

WETHERBY

THUNDERER

1.10 Blackpatch Hill. 1.40 High Altitude. 2.10 Rustic Sunset. 2.40 Squire Silk. 3.15 Teaplanter. 3.45 Ridwan.

Brian Beel: 3.15 Teaplanter.

GOING: SOFT SIS

1.10 ACOMB NOVICES HURDLE
(£3,113: 2m) (15 runners)

1	1	MONOKRATIC 19 (S) Mrs S Bramall 6-11-12	J Burke	79
2	5/6	ANOTHER FOUNTAIN 40 J Dixon 9-11-5	G Cahill (7)	–
3	20	BLACKPATCH HILL 94 N Tinkler 6-11-5	L Wyer	98
4	0	GEMIKOSIX 38 Mrs K Walton 5-11-5	D Bentley	–
5	00/	GREY ANCONA 51F (V) E Alston 6-11-5	N Mann	–
6	5	PROVENCE 19 L Lungo 6-11-5	T Reed	–
7	30-P	ROBINS PRIDE 77 N Tinkler 5-11-5	E Husband (5)	–
8	-055	SOUNDS FYNE 35 (S) Jimmy Fitzgerald 6-11-5	M Dwyer	66
9	-060	TICO GOLD 21 P Cheesbrough 7-11-5	A Dobbin	73
10	36-0	TROOPING 100 M Meagher 6-11-5	N Doughty	80
11		CHANTRY BELLINI 29F Mrs S Austin 6-11-0	D Wilkinson	–
12	6/0	DANCING REEF 15F (B) E Alston 6-11-0	A Procter (3)	–
13	P0	MAKENA 49 Mrs A Tomlinson 5-11-0	K Johnson	–
14	2	AMBER VALLEY 58 D Williams 4-10-9	G Hogan (5)	[illegible]
15	2	CIRCUS LINE 88 M W Easterby 4-10-9	R Garritty	76

7-2 Blackpatch Hill, 4-1 Amber Valley, 5-1 Circus Line, 6-1 Monokratic, 8-1 Tico Gold, Provence, 10-1 Sounds Fyne, 12-1 others.

1.40 HELMSLEY NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
(£6,743: 2m) (6)

1	1333	SPANISH FAIR 38 (D,F,G) Mrs S Bramall 7-12-0	Mr D Parker (5)	90
2	3-24	HIGH ALLTITUDE 21 (G,S) G Moore 7-11-11	N Doughty	[illegible]
3	2214	DUAL IMAGE 49 (F,G,S) Jimmy Fitzgerald 8-11-9	M Dwyer	–
4	1142	SEAGULL HOLLOW 14 (D,BF,G,S) M H Easterby 6-11-6	L Wyer	91
5	PF41	COUNTERBALANCE 26 (D,S) J McConnochie 8-10-13	J J Brown (7)	97
6	-23F	ANNIE KELLY 56 (S) J Wharton 7-10-5	B Dalton	91

6-4 High Altitude, 5-2 Spanish Fair, 3-1 Seagull Hollow, 6-1 Counterbalance, 12-1 Dual Image, 33-1 Annie Kelly.

2.10 SKIPTON NOVICES CHASE
(£3,753: 2m 4f 110yd) (5)

1	2452	BULA NUDAY 7 K Oliver 10-11-3	B Storey	93
2	P4UP	COOL WEATHER 16 P Cheesbrough 7-11-3	M Dwyer	–
3	22-4	JUDGED LUCKY 14 J McConnochie 8-11-3	R Bellamy	[illegible]
4	0/U	ROSE'S ORPHAN 45 O Todd 9-11-3	A Larnach (3)	–
5	-5F2	RUSTIC SUNSET 24 A Turnell 9-11-3	S McNeill	94

5-4 Rustic Sunset, 9-4 Bula Nuday, 3-1 Judged Lucky, 6-1 Cool Weather, 33-1 Rose's Orphan.

2.40 RIEVAULX HANDICAP HURDLE
(£6,970: 2m) (11)

1	111-	ATTADALE 107F (C,F,G,S) L Lungo 7-12-0	T Reed	[illegible]
2	/30-	GIVENTIME 455 (D,S) A Turnell 7-11-10	D Fortt (5)	94
3	3103	CUMBRIAN CHALLENGE 40 (CD,G,S) M H Easterby 6-11-9	L Wyer	96
4	605-	PERSUASIVE 378 (D,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 8-11-5	P Niven	91
5	1P/	SACRE D'OR 673 (D,F,G,S) N Tinkler 10-11-0	M Dwyer	–
6	120-	FIVE TO SEVEN 295F (D,S) C Thornton 6-10-11	D Wilkinson	92
7	-615	SQUIRE SILK 84 (D,G,S) A Turnell 6-10-8	S McNeill	95
8	P2U1	NATIVE WORTH 21 (CD,G,S) J Jefferson 5-10-5	M Moloney	96
9	1530	BEND SABLE 19 (CD,F,S) F Storey 5-10-4	B Storey	95
10	4R53	DARING PAST 14 (CD,G,S) M Hammond 5-10-4	A Dobbin	97
11	F0P-	ICARUS 325 (B,C,F,G) D Brown 9-10-0	B Harding (5)	–

3-1 Squire Silk, 7-2 Daring Past, 5-1 Attadale, 6-1 Cumbrian Challenge, 7-1 Five To Seven, 8-1 Native Worth, 10-1 Persuasive, 12-1 Bend Sable, 14-1 others.

3.15 HAROLD CHARLTON MEMORIAL HUNTERS CHASE
(Amateurs: £1,576: 3m 110yd) (7)

1	111-	ONCE STUNG 250 (CD,F,G,S) P Cheesbrough 9-12-4	J Greenall	74
2	121-	TEAPLANTER 283 (CD,F,G,S) Miss C Saunders 12-12-4	R Russell (5)	96
3	4P4-	DARK DAWN 270 (F,G,S) Mrs J Brown 11-12-0	S Swiers	84
4	4U0-	CLONONY CASTLE 287 (V) Miss U McGuinness 9-11-10	C Bonner (5)	60
5	/50-	FAST STUDY 250 (D,S) S Robinson 10-11-10	S Robinson (7)	70
6	/3U-	NICK THE BRIEF 302 (D,F,G,S) J Upson 13-11-10	T Byrne (5)	88
7	322-	WHATS THE CRACK 428 (D,G) Mrs A King 12-11-10	R Johnson (7)	[illegible]

6-4 Teaplanter, 5-2 Whats The Crack, 7-2 Once Stung, 10-1 Dark Dawn, 16-1 Nick The Brief, 20-1 Clonony Castle, 25-1 Fast Study.

3.45 SPOFFORTH HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,184: 2m 7f 110yd) (14)

1	1112	IVY HOUSE 57 (D,G,S) J J O'Neill 7-12-0	M Dwyer	93
2	0044	PEANUTS PET 14 (C,BF,F,G,S) T Tate 10-11-13	R Garritty	97
3	/4P	YOUNG TY 84 (C,F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 11-11-5	P Niven	–
4	4R03	THREEOUTOFFOUR 21 (V,G,S) O Brennan 10-11-3	M Brennan	95
5	2550	CHIEF RAIDER 49 (C,G,S) J Wade 7-11-2	D Ryan (7)	98
6	0-24	FURRY BABY 57 (G,S) M Avison 8-11-1	E Callaghan (7)	90
7	62-3	RIMOUSKI 170 (G) B Cambidge 7-11-0	Mr J Cambidge	91
8	25-4	SHAFFIC 15 (C,G) Mrs M Reveley 8-10-7	G Lee (5)	93
9	4P25	LION OF VIENNA 21 (S) T Carr 8-10-4	L Wyer	[illegible]
10	4-05	HELIOPSIS 21 (C,D,G,S) M Hammond 7-10-3	A Dobbin	96
11	3320	RIDWAN 35 (C,BF,S) K Morgan 8-10-2	A S Smith	95
12	13-1	GREAT EASEBY 78 (S) W Storey 5-10-0	K Johnson	94
13	PP-0	VITAL WITNESS 49 (S) K Morgan 8-10-0	R Massey (5)	–
14	P23-	JEFFERBY 414 (G) J Glover 8-10-0	Mr C Bonner (5)	92

9-2 Ivy House, 11-2 Peanuts Pet, 6-1 Threeoutoffour, 7-1 Shaffic, 8-1 Furry Baby, 10-1 Lion Of Vienna, Ridwan, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: A Turnell, 3 winners from 5 runners, 60.0%; Mrs M Reveley, 39 from 139, 28.1%; Jimmy Fitzgerald, 21 from 111, 18.9%; M H Easterby, 26 from 142, 18.3%; N Tinkler, 13 from 89, 14.6%.

JOCKEYS: S McNeill, 3 winners from 9 rides, 33.3%; Mr J Greenall, 3 from 12, 25%; P Niven, 41 from 176, 23.3%; L Wyer, 32 from 145, 22.1%; N Doughty, 15 from 76, 19.7%; M Dwyer, 23 from 167, 13.8%.

WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER

7.00 Scottish Park. 7.30 Acrow Line. 8.00 Heathyards Lady. 8.30 Forgotten Empress. 9.00 Ivan The Terrible. 9.30 Scalp 'Em.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 7.00 Ship Of The Line. 9.00 **OFF THE AIR** (nap).

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

7.00 OSPREY HANDICAP
(£2,502: 1m 1f 79yd) (11 runners)

1	01-2	MAM'ZELLE ANGOT 12 (CD,G,S) J Eyre 5-10-0	D Pears (3)	1
2	0922	GREEK GOLD 7 (G) G Kelly 6-9-9	Alex Greaves	2
3	30-3	SHIP OF THE LINE 17 (F,BF) J Fanshawe 5-9-9	D Harrison	3
4	006-	FIRST CENTURY 40J (B,G) M Pipe 6-9-3	J Weaver	5
5	060-	DOON RIDGE 40J J J O'Neill 4-9-0	J Stack (5)	11
6	20-6	SUIVEZ 14 (D,F) Mrs N Macauley 5-9-0	Dean McKeown	9
7	00-4	DOMIA 22 (B,C,G) J L Harris 6-8-9	G Duffield	8
8	3-20	MISS CHARLIE 17 A Bailey 5-8-6	G Carter	4
9	04-1	SCOTTISH PARK 23 (C,F,G,S) R Emery 6-8-5	G Bardwell	7
10	01-0	SHY PADDY 25 (V,CD,G) K Cunningham-Brown 3-8-3	A Clark	6
11	000-	TREMOLANTE 85 J Wilson 4-7-7	D Wright (3)	10

3-1 Mam'zelle Angot, 7-2 Greek Gold, 4-1 Ship Of The Line, 9-2 Scottish Park, 6-1 Miss Charlie, 10-1 First Century, Suivez, 12-1 others.

7.30 THRUSH CLAIMING STAKES
(£2,085: 1m 6f 166yd) (7)

1	35-2	BRODESSA 22 (D,BF,F) Mrs M Reveley 9-9-8	G Parkin (7)	5
2	2	CROWN PROSECUTOR 26 (BF) W Muir 5-9-8	J Weaver	7
3	-225	ROYAL CITIZEN 15 (S) J Bottomley 6-9-4	T Ives	6
4	202-	LONE RISK 101 (C,G,S) M Pipe 4-9-1	D Harrison	3
5	013-	ACROW LINE 28J (C,F,G) D Burchell 10-8-12	Stephen Davies	1
6		NOON AIR R Hollinshead 4-8-12	M Wigham	4
7	40-0	PLAYING TRICKS 9 P Evans 4-7-10	J Quinn	2

5-2 Crown Prosecutor, 7-2 Royal Citizen, 4-1 Acrow Line, 9-2 Lone Risk, 5-1 Brodessa, 10-1 Playing Tricks, 16-1 Noon Air.

8.00 STEWART MATTHEWS 21ST HANDICAP
(£2,788: 6f) (10)

1	6320	SAMSON-AGONISTES 10 (V,C,D,F,G,S) P Evans 9-10-0	T Ives	9
2	-300	FRISKY MISS 4 (CD,F,G,S) K C-Brown 4-10-0	J Weaver	6
3	1-04	FOUR OF SPADES 7 (B,CD,G) W Cunningham 4-9-13	A Clark	10
4	604-	SOBA GUEST 252 (C,D,F,G,S) R Jackes 6-9-3	Emma O'Gorman (3)	3
5	U-01	LETSBEONESTABOUTIT 8 (CD,F,G,S) Mrs N Macauley 9-9-1	Dean McKeown	4
6	000-	FIGHTER SQUADRON 92 (B,D,G,S) R Peacock 6-9-0	G Duffield	7
7	3-43	HEATHYARDS LADY 14 (CD,G) R Hollinshead 4-8-12	G Carter	8
8	00-0	ARAWA 24 (C,G) D Marks 5-8-10	M Baird (7)	5
9	00-4	CHADWELL HALL 8 (B) S Bowring 4-8-2	C Teague (7)	2
10	06-1	BECKYHANNAH 14 (B,CD,S) R Bastiman 5-7-13	D Wright (3)	1

9-2 Chadwell Hall, 5-1 Four Of Spades, Letsbeonestaboutit, 11-2 Heathyards Lady, 6-1 Beckyhannah, Samson-Agonistes, 7-1 Frisky Miss, 8-1 others.

8.30 ROBIN MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES
(£3,024: 1m 100yd) (10)

1	42-0	SUPERCOOL 22 B McMahon 4-9-10	J Weaver	10
2	60-0	CHARLOTTE PENNY 29 (B) N Littmoden 4-9-5	T G McLaughlin (5)	8
3	440-	DYNAMIS 35 K Cunningham-Brown 4-9-5	G Carter	5
4	0-	BENTHAM'S ABOUT 189 J Scargill 3-8-5	D Harrison	7
5	0	CROCODILE ROCK 24 M Heaton-Ellis 3-8-5	Stephen Davies	4
6	00	HAYA YA KEFAAH 8 M Prescott 3-8-5	G Duffield	3
7	262-	FORGOTTEN EMPRESS 40 J Eyre 3-8-0	J Fanning	2
8	3	NUTHATCH 10 M Usher 3-8-0	C Adamson (7)	9
9	0	OUR DOROTHY 9 C Williams 3-8-0	J Quinn	1
10	04	SAND STAR 10 D Haydn Jones 3-8-0	A Mackay	6

5-4 Forgotten Empress, 7-2 Nuthatch, 4-1 Dynamis, 8-1 Sand Star, 10-1 Crocodile Rock, 12-1 Supercool, 14-1 others.

9.00 FINCH SELLING STAKES
(£2,085: 1m 100yd) (7)

1	10-6	IVAN THE TERRIBLE 15 (CD,G) B Ellison 7-9-9	T Ives	6
2	00-6	MAIN BRACE 25 K Burke 4-9-9	G Carter	4
3	404-	PINATUBO 116 M Pipe 4-9-9	J Weaver	1
4	2144	OFF THE AIR 10 (V,CD,G,S) I Campbell 4-9-8	D Harrison	3
5	00-0	BONNY MELODY 11 (V,G) P Evans 4-9-4	A Clark	2
6	32-5	SHARP GAZELLE 15 (D,F) B Smart 5-9-4	Mark Denaro (7)	7
7	008-	SAXON HEIR 70 (B,G) M Usher 3-8-4	C Adamson (7)	5

9-4 Off The Air, 11-4 Pinatubo, 4-1 Ivan The Terrible, 5-1 Saxon Heir, 10-1 Main Brace, 12-1 Sharp Gazelle, 14-1 Bonny Melody.

9.30 A JAEBAN BUDGET RENTACAR HANDICAP
(£2,792: 1m 4f) (12)

1	23-1	PREMIER DANCE 14 (CD,F,G) D Haydn Jones 8-10-0	S Drowne (5)	4
2	/10-	KING'S SHILLING 217 (F,G) H Oliver 8-9-8	V Slattery	7
3	042-	OPERA BUFF 110 M Pipe 4-9-6	D Harrison	9
4	004-	WINN'S PRIDE 87J (S) R Hollinshead 4-9-5	T Ives	2
5	-222	SCALP 'EM 9 (V,CD,F,G) P Evans 7-9-5	A Clark	12
6	6-06	SHARP SENSATION 10 (G) D Nicholls 5-8-11	Alex Greaves	10
7	200-	SPRING LOADED 59 (F,S) J O'Shea 4-8-10	J Stack (5)	11
8	2100	GENESIS FOUR 12 (B,G) S Bowring 5-8-8	C Teague (7)	8
9	4-03	AWESTRUCK 17 (F,G,S) B Preece 5-8-8	G Duffield	6
10	6-32	CHILD STAR 17 (C,G,S) D Marks 6-8-7	M Baird (7)	1
11	540-	DORMSTON BOYO 182 K White 5-8-0	J Quinn	3
12	0-05	MIGHTY KINGDOM 23 R Emery 4-7-11	G Bardwell	5

3-1 Premier Dance, 7-2 Child Star, 4-1 Scalp 'Em, 5-1 Awestruck, 6-1 Winn's Pride, 7-1 Opera Buff, 8-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: R Bastiman, 5 winners from 15 runners, 33.3%; Mrs M Reveley, 9 from 30, 30.0%; M Prescott, 10 from 35, 28.6%; M Heaton-Ellis, 3 from 12, 25.0%; A Bailey, 17 from 100, 17.0%; J L Harris, 7 from 49, 14.3%; Mrs N Macauley, 6 from 54, 11.1%; B McMahon, 9 from 82, 11.0%.

JOCKEYS: J Weaver, 39 winners from 149 rides, 26.2%; G Duffield, 8 from 37, 21.6%; M Baird, 5 from 33, 15.2%; D Harrison, 7 from 50, 14%; A Clark, 11 from 82, 13.4%; Dean McKeown, 3 from 26, 11.5%; D Wright, 11 from 97, 11.3%.

RACING NEXT WEEK

- MONDAY: Southwell (AW, first race 2.00), Fontwell (2.15), Market Rasen (1.50).
TUESDAY: Lingfield Park (AW, 1.50), Carlisle (1.30), Warwick (1.40).
WEDNESDAY: Wolverhampton (AW, 2.10), Ascot (BBC, 1.30), Ludlow (1.50).
- THURSDAY: Lingfield Park (AW, 1.50), Huntingdon (2.00), Wincanton (1.40).
FRIDAY: Southwell (AW, 2.10), Bangor (1.50), Newbury (2.00).
SATURDAY: Lingfield Park (AW, 2.05), Ayr (1.50), Catterick (1.55), Newbury (BBC, 1.10), Uttoxeter (C4, 1.35).

Flat meetings in bold

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Miracle Man's improvement no illusion

SANDOWN
C4

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

2.25: Mole Board, fourth in last year's Champion Hurdle, won this two years ago and escapes any penalties. At his best he would have outstanding claims but age may be catching up with Jim Old's 13-year-old. Kingsfold Pet is taking a jump up in class after winning four handicaps while Land Afar prefers better ground. **Absalom's Lady** goes particularly well on right-handed courses and if she runs up to the form which saw her win the Christmas Hurdle at Kempton by a neck from stablemate Atours, David Elsworth's mare will take all the beating.

3.00: It is difficult to assess the comfortable success of **Banjo** over two rivals, one of whom fell early on at Haydock, on his British debut. The five-year-old won three chases in France earlier this season, including one worth £75,000, so Martin Pipe's import is obviously useful and may offer some value against High Baron.

Robert Alner's stable star has beaten useful opposition in three starts over fences and is best going right-handed. However, the Sandown fences often pose problems for novice chasers and High Baron was lucky to get away with a couple of mistakes at Kempton last time. Petosku's chasing victories have come at Haydock and Lingfield and he almost certainly prefers going left-handed. Bo Knows Best won on his chasing debut and was only around 7lb inferior to High Baron over hurdles. Yeoman Warrior has experience here, having finished second to Montebel over course and distance last month, but needs to improve.

3.35: Superior Finish invariably improves significantly between his first and second run each season and horses out of the handicap have a good record in this contest. He is no less than 25lb better off with Earth Summit compared to when they ran against each other in the Scottish Grand National last year.

Only three lengths covered the first five home in a moderately run race won by Deep Bramble (Riverside Boy second, Cool Ground fourth) here last month and the step back to three miles may be against the trio. **Country Member**, three times a winner over these fences, has run well both times this campaign after having not raced last season. Dropped 3lb since finishing fourth to Raymylette at Ascot, Andy Turnell's chaser is now on a winning mark.

Pipe: trains Banjo

4.10: Despite having not won for two years, Dominant Serenade has run some good races, notably when half-a-length second in this race last year, and is now on a 4lb lower handicap mark. But Micky Hammond's runner will have his work cut out to deal with two in-form horses below him in the weights.

Burnt Imp relished the test of stamina at Cheltenham last month when collaring Auburn Castle close home. The five-year-old must go well but I just prefer **Miracle Man**, winner of both his starts this term, who has more scope for improvement.

Allegation proved no match for Do Be Have at Wincanton last time, but may still prove best of the remainder.

RICHARD EVANS

[illegible]

Controversial plan proposes winter championship halt

By Christopher Irvine

IN A bleak and disruptive midwinter, the advocates of summer rugby league habitually point to a backlog of postponed matches as evidence for an uprooting of the traditional season.

January and February are when the bandwagon of complaints fills up and starts to roll. They are the months suggested in a discussion document by Gary Hetherington for a mid-championship pause. A leading proponent of summer rugby in the past, the Sheffield Eagles' coach believes that breaking up the season would bring similar benefits.

Support for a term running from March to October is growing, but Hetherington, who revealed his controversial plan in the relative safety of Sydney, where he is coaching Britain in the World Sevens, has come up with something more radical still. Most controversially, the Challenge Cup would be scrapped in favour of a series of play-offs at the end of the season, involving the top five in each division, as is the practice in Australia. The championship season would run from September to May, with the final three rounds of the Regal Trophy held in January, during the nine-week championship shutdown.

In wanting to provoke debate, Hetherington will not be disappointed. The idea of a shift in the season has failed to get beyond working party level at the Rugby Football League (RFL) but the benefits Hetherington envisages tally with the League's objectives.

"It is purely a framework which could be altered, extended or reduced, but it is based on the belief that our game needs to attract more spectators and also take advantage of the spectacular progress of rugby league in Australasia," Hetherington said.

His proposal not only retains the basic tenet of a winter game, but provides a clear structure, which a sport embroiled in fixture rearrangements, postponements and clashes of interest between international events does not have at present.

A first division reduced by two clubs to 14 would resolve much of the fixture overload that places intolerable demands on players with midweek games, as well as hitting the pockets of supporters. Due to make a fifth appearance in 18 days, Gary Connolly, the Wigan centre, dropped out of the England side that lost to Wales on Wednesday because of sheer fatigue.

Success, as Wigan know, brings with it greater fixture congestion. It involves the club in twice as many games as those in Australia. Mal Meninga, the retired Australia captain, said: "The physicality of rugby league is such that you can't properly play to your peak twice or more a week, week in and week out."

Meanwhile, the RFL has settled its dispute with Wigan and confirmed that Martin Offiah can play in the championship match against Castleford tomorrow, provided he has recovered from the knee injury that forced his withdrawal from the World Sevens squad this week. The withdrawal initially ruled him ineligible.

On the other side of the world, Brisbane Broncos, New Zealand and Gold Coast Seagulls were the first three sides to progress to the Coca-Cola World Sevens quarter-finals in Brisbane yesterday. They emerged as the winners from the three groups contested at the Suncorpe Stadium and now go forward to the final stages at the Sydney Football Stadium tomorrow.

The Broncos won group four with the aid of their new rivals, South Queensland Crushers, who, inspired by St John Ellis, their captain and former Castleford winger, unexpectedly beat the Perth-based Western Reds 26-22 with Ellis scoring two tries.

Great Britain start their campaign for a place in the quarter-finals when they face Penrith and St George in their group two qualifying matches in Sydney today.

TABLE

Stones Bitter Championship
First division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wigan	18	17	0	1	640	252	34
Leeds	19	16	1	2	560	339	33
Halifax	19	13	1	5	515	319	27
Bradford	20	13	1	6	522	350	27
St Helens	20	13	1	6	534	388	27
Castleford	18	11	2	5	496	331	24
Warrington	19	11	1	7	428	340	23
Oldham	18	7	1	10	342	444	15
Sheffield	19	7	0	12	355	469	14
Wakefield	19	7	0	12	281	480	14
Salford	18	6	1	11	370	426	13
Workington	19	6	1	12	311	495	13
Doncaster	19	5	1	13	314	535	11
Featherstone	19	4	1	14	372	448	9
Widnes	17	4	1	12	198	416	9
Hull	19	3	1	15	350	566	7

GRAHAM MORRIS

Malcolm spills a simple return catch from Slater on 59 in the fifth Test match in Perth. He dropped him again on 87 before Slater was out for 124. Report, page 40

England A face selection test

ENGLAND A failed to finalise their line-up for the third Test match against India A in Chandigarh today after giving the city's Sector 16 Stadium pitch a thorough examination yesterday. Their practice was put back two hours because of heavy dew — and there are fears that the surface to be used for the Test may deteriorate quickly.

The 9am start each day adds another problem for the England A management. It believes that the seam bowlers may get more movement than is usual in India — certainly in the morning sessions — but local officials predict only that the pitch will take turn from an early stage.

Keith Piper, the Warwickshire wicketkeeper, and the Middlesex seamer, Richard Johnson, will both play because neither figured in the Test wins at Bangalore and Calcutta. But a final decision on who is left out will not be made until just before the start today.

Paul Weekes, is likely to come in for the opener, Michael Vaughan. The players most under threat from Johnson's inclusion are the spinners, Min Patel and Ian Salisbury.

☐ Only 47 minutes' play was possible on the first day of the first Test between New Zealand and West Indies in Christchurch yesterday. New Zealand made 24 without loss.

Scotland A flattered as Stanger steals show

Scotland A 24
Ireland A 18

By a Correspondent

A SECOND try, in injury time, by Tony Stanger gave Scotland A a scarcely deserved win over Ireland A at Myreside yesterday.

The Scots, outplayed in the forwards by an Irish pack that was livelier in the loose and more efficient in the lineout, appeared to have lost the game after Mark McCall, the Ireland A captain, had sidestepped his way through the home defence for an excellent individual try, converted by Niall Malone. But Stanger popped up to grab the winning score, with Stuart Laing adding the conversion.

Scotland A had taken the initiative earlier in the game, with Laing kicking three first-half penalties in reply to a penalty by Alan McGowan and a try by Richard Wallace, the Ireland A wing.

McGowan's drop-goal, two minutes into the second half, gave the visitors the lead, but the situation changed once more when a move out of defence ended with Stanger, the Scotland A wing, racing in for the first of his two tries. McCall's try then gave Ireland A an 18-14 lead, but a Laing penalty in the 74th minute reduced the deficit to a single point and Stanger did the rest.

SCORERS: Scotland A: Tries: Stanger (2) Conversion: Laing Penalty goals: Laing (4). Ireland A: Tries: Wallace, McCall Conversion: Malone Penalty goal: McGowan. Dropped goal: McGowan.

☐ A dropped goal by the stand-off half, Fergal Campion, two minutes from time gave Ireland a 24-22 victory over Scotland in the under-21 international at Myreside yesterday.

Daly misses cut after second bad round

By Our Sports Staff

JOHN DALY suffered a new setback to his career when he failed to make the halfway cut in the Heineken Golf Classic in Perth, Australia, yesterday.

The 1991 US PGA champion, returning after a four-month break from competition, followed his dismal eight-over-par 80 on Thursday with a marginally better 76 to finish 12 over par on 156 — nine strokes off the cut of 147.

Daly looked likely to force his way into the third round when he went through the front nine holes in two-under-par but his round fell to pieces over the next five holes, where he dropped seven shots.

"I was dreading playing that back nine," Daly said. "It's so tough. For me, there's nowhere to aim the ball. It's so tight when you're not hitting your long irons well."

David Smail, of New Zealand, continued his run of recent good form to open a two-shot lead at the halfway mark. Smail shot a three-under-par 69 to follow an impressive 67 on Thursday, moving to eight under, two shots clear of Perry Moss, of the United States.

The 24-year-old from Hamilton has had to rely on his girlfriend, Sheree Higgens, a professional on the Japanese women's tour, to make ends meet financially.

However, he has hit the best form of his career over the past two months and is poised to pick up his biggest cheque since he earned his Australasian PGA Tour card two years ago. Third place is shared by three Australians — Richard Green, Robert Allenby and David Ecob — who are all five under par on 139.

Commercial Artist to upset principals

By Our Irish Racing Correspondent

JODAMI and Merry Gale face the decisive test of their Cheltenham Gold Cup credentials in tomorrow's Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Leopardstown, but the suspicion remains that neither will pass.

Jodami, who is being flown to Dublin this afternoon with the Martin Pipe-trained Chatam, is going for an unprecedented treble of Hennessy wins but has hardly had the ideal season thus far. Falls at Haydock and Wetherby have shaken confidence in the Peter Beaumont-trained gelding and an error-free race is a pre-requisite tomorrow.

"I'm perfectly happy with him," Beaumont said yesterday. "He's working well, has schooled well and we're hoping for a clear round." Jodami's 100 per cent record at Leopardstown will encourage Beaumont, but Jim Dreaper does not have that consolation with his charge. Twice this season Merry Gale has fallen at Leopardstown and Graham Bradley replaces Kevin O'Brien tomorrow.

Nor is it encouraging that many of Dreaper's horses have been coughing. Merry Gale has shown no sign of the problem but the heat of competition is the crucial test. In the circumstances he is best avoided.

Chatam has few Gold Cup pretensions left and looks to need beyond three miles these days, while Nuaffe is coming back from a bout of the virus and his jumping can be unpredictable at the best of times.

Adrian Maguire rides Second Schedual, third to Algan in the King George VI Chase. Since Maguire's booking there has been steady support for Second Schedual but his chances will not be improved by the heavy ground.

That leaves us with Commercial Artist, third to One Man in the Hennessy at Newbury in November and winner of the Ericsson Chase at Leopardstown in December. He jumps soundly, the deeper the ground the better and at odds of around 12-1 he looks to represent value in a race where question marks queue up next to the principals.

LEOPARDSTOWN TOMORROW

GOING: HEAVY

3.45 HENNESSY COGNAC GOLD CUP (Ir£48,750: 3m) (6 runners)

1 240-61F2 CHATAM 15 (D,F,G,S) (A Nolan) M Pipe (GB) 11-12-0 .... C F Swan 93
2 301431- COMMERCIAL ARTIST 39 (G,S) (M O'Neill) V Bowens 9-12-0 .... C O'Dwyer 88
3 13312-U2 JODAMI 41 (CD,F,G,S) (J Yeadon) P Beaumont (GB) 10-12-0 .... M Dwyer 89
4 1431F-1 MERRY GALE 24 (G,S) (H Stanley) J Dreaper 7-12-0 .... G Bradley 96
5 021222- NUAFFE 39 (G,S) (J Doyle) P Fahy 10-12-0 .... S H O'Donovan 75
6 650323- SECOND SCHEDUAL 41 (F,G,S) (H McMahon) Miss A McMahon 10-12-0 A Maguire 91

BETTING: 7-4 Jodami, 5-2 Merry Gale, 9-2 Chatam, 5-1 Second Schedual, 12-1 Commercial Artist, 20-1 Nuaffe.

1994: JODAMI 12-0 M Dwyer (5-4 fav) P Beaumont 6 ran

Golden Freeze to test Larkhill youngsters

Point-to-point by Brian Beel

THE **New Forest** meeting at Larkhill is the first, and probably the only, hunt this season to take advantage of the new rule whereby a members' race is no longer mandatory. Last season only two took part in the hunt race, one better than the walk-over in 1993.

Racegoers will not be starved of action by this omission, however, as ten races have been scheduled for the 310 entries.

Many engaged in the mixed open are also in the divisions of the PPOA race, so four contenders in this year's Times Rising Stars series are likely to avoid each other. Cool Dawn, Green's Van Goyen and Woodbury Fair have already won this term, but Proud Sun has been unlucky so far with abandoned meetings.

A yardstick for these youngsters will be provided by the former chaser, Golden Freeze, who showed at Tweseldown that he has been rejuvenated by a season's hunting.

An interesting entry for the Open at **North Cornwall** is the hunter chaser The Jogger. Now reverting to point-to-pointing after missing 1994, he has My Main Man to beat.

John Sharp deputises for the injured Nigel Bloom when Melton Park makes his seasonal debut at the **Thurlow**, while Maid To Match will be difficult to beat in the Ladies' at the **Oxford University** meeting at Kingston Blount.

No problems are expected at Alnwick tomorrow for the rescheduled **West Percy**, but today's Old Raby meeting is off because of waterlogging.

TODAY'S MEETINGS: New Forest, Larkhill, 3 miles north west of Amesbury (11 30 first race). North Cornwall, Wadebridge, Royal County Show ground, 1m W of town (12 00). Oxford University, Kingston Blount, 4m NE of Watlington (12 00). Thurlow, Horseheath, 3m E of Linton (12 00); TOMORROW: West Percy and Milvain, Alnwick, 3m E of town (12 30)

BBC ahead in the ratings

By Richard Evans, racing correspondent

THE BBC attracted between two and three times the number of viewers for its racing coverage at Ayr last Saturday compared to Channel 4's audience for the quality card at Cheltenham.

Unofficial viewing figures, which are likely to be confirmed in ten days' time, may cause some unease among race sponsors at the headquarters of jump racing where Channel 4 took over coverage from the BBC last month.

The three Ayr races televised by the BBC, which were of moderate quality, attracted three million, 2.7 million and 2.6 million viewers respectively. By contrast, Channel 4's first race, featuring the clash between Master Oats and Barton Bank, was watched by just 1.3 million viewers as was the second race, showing Flakey Dove, the champion hurdler. The final two contests attracted 1.1 million and one million viewers.

Unlike some Saturdays, the BBC audience was not bolstered by a big sports event, such as a rugby international, which tends to increase ratings for racing, according to commercial television executives.

Chepstow's meeting this afternoon has been abandoned because of waterlogging.

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

1.50 Press The Bell. 2.20 Words Of Wisdom. 2.50 Ultimate Warrior. 3.20 Prima Silk. 3.55 Lady Roxanne. 4.25 Head Turner.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 4.25 Tiger Shoot.

GOING: STANDARD SIS
DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

1.50 BLACKWOOD CLAIMING STAKES
(£2,981: 5f) (6 runners)

1 33-2 PRESS THE BELL 23 (CD,BF,F,G,S) J Berry 5-9-9 .... G Carter 5
2 05-0 SISON 24 (D,G) K Wingrove 5-9-3 .... J McLaughlin 1
3 2-31 LITTLE SABOTEUR 23 (B,CD,F,G,S) P Makin 6-9-2 .... A Clark 3
4 006- AMAZING NEWS 231 M Campion 4-8-12 .... J Weaver 4
5 1334 BON SECRET 9 (CD,G) T Naughton 3-8-6 .... D Harrison 6
6 10-4 SUPERLAO 7 (D,F,G) A Hermans (Bel) 3-7-13 .... J Quinn 2

9-4 Press The Bell, 5-2 Little Saboteur, 5-1 Superlao, 6-1 Sison, Bon Secret, 8-1 Amazing News

2.20 PELLEW APPRENTICES HANDICAP
(£2,550: 1m) (12)

1 06-1 WORDS OF WISDOM 11 (C,G) C Cyzer 5-9-11 .... M Baird 4
2 6-33 ROCKSTINE 23 (C,D,G) P Mitchell 4-9-10 .... L Suthern (3) 10
3 20-1 KING PARROT 26 (CD,G) Lord Huntingdon 7-9-8 .... J Wilkinson (5) 6
4 00-5 CLARET BUMBLE 4 (D,F,G) A Hermans (Bel) 4-9-8 .... R Painter 8
5 040- DOODIES POOL 127 (CD,G) G L Moore 5-9-6 .... Caroline Hovington (7) 9
6 4/1- BLUE ENSIGN 315 (B,CD,G) H Rowsell 10-8-9 .... D Gibbs 3
7 00-0 MY LIFETIME LADY 7 (F,S) K Ivory 4-8-8 .... C Scally (5) 7
8 6-35 LEXUS 9 (B,D,G) R Williams 7-8-8 .... Sarah Thompson (3) 12
9 000- CHRISTIAN SPIRIT 315 (B,CD,G) B Pearce 5-8-3 .... P Roberts 2
10 1043 MYJINKA 4 (B,C,G) J O'Donoghue 5-8-1 .... Iona Wands (5) 5
11 /0 HELMSLEY PALACE 9 (B) M Muggeridge 6-7-12 .... S Lanigan (3) 1
12 00-0 BERNIE'S SISTER 11 (V) C Allen 4-7-11 .... Karen Markham (7) 11

3-1 King Parrot, 9-2 Words Of Wisdom, 5-1 Lexus, 11-2 Rockstine, 6-1 Blue Ensign, Myjinka, 8-1 others

2.50 GAMBIER MAIDEN STAKES (£3,556: 1m) (7)

1 /30- ADDED DIMENSION 124 C Nash 4-9-0 .... R Perham 1
2 006- THAMES SIDE 131J M Madgwick 4-9-0 .... D R McCabe (3) 4
3 00-0 ULTIMATE WARRIOR 11 C Cyzer 5-9-0 .... T Ives 3
4 000- INSPIRATION POINT 68 Miss B Sanders 4-8-9 .... N Varley (5) 6
5 335/ SONG OF YEARS 526 J Hills 4-8-9 .... L Dettori 2
6 00-0 STIPPLE 9 S Woodman 4-8-9 .... M Fenton 5
7 -465 THORNIWAMA 7 (B) J Bridger 4-8-9 .... G Bardwell 7

4-6 Song Of Years, 11-4 Ultimate Warrior, 11-2 Thames Side, 14-1 Added Dimension, 16-1 Inspiration Point, 20-1 Thorniwama, 25-1 Stipple.

3.20 JERVIS HANDICAP (£3,623: 7f) (7)

1 600- PRIMA SILK 114 (F) M Ryan 4-10-0 .... A Clark 2
2 -412 MAID WELCOME 9 (V,CD,F,G) Mrs N Macauley 8-9-1 .... Amanda Sanders (7) 3
3 0342 PROFIT RELEASE 5 (D,BF,F) M Johnston 4-8-10 .... T Williams 1
4 0-06 IT'S SO EASY 23 (D,G,S) A James 4-8-7 .... W Woods 6
5 -263 DIGPAST 9 (B,CD,G) R O'Sullivan 5-8-6 .... D Biggs 4
6 5-00 PANCHELLITA 9 (D,F,G) G L Moore 6-8-4 .... J Quinn 7
7 -515 RAGAZZO 10 (B,CD,G) K Cunningham-Brown 5-8-0 .... L Charnock 5

9-4 Maid Welcome, 11-4 Digpast, 4-1 Profit Release, 5-1 Prima Silk, 7-1 Ragazzo, 16-1 Panchellita, 20-1 It's So Easy.

3.55 COCHRANE LIMITED STAKES
(£2,827: 6f) (14)

1 00-4 BANBURY FLYER 16 (CD,F,G) Mrs A King 7-9-7 .... N Varley (5) 3
2 206- FINJAN 35 (D,F,S) A Foster 8-9-7 .... M Rimmer 12
3 6-40 GINGERILLO 11 (B) T Mills 4-9-7 .... W Woods 1
4 0-05 MAKE THE BREAK 8 (B,D,F,G) S Coathup 4-9-7 .... S James (7) 10
5 0-60 MR B REASONABLE 5 (B,F) S Campion 4-9-7 .... T Ives 8
6 45-2 OUR SHADEE 11 (V,C,D,F) K Ivory 5-9-7 .... C Scally (7) 9
7 00-0 SCOTS LAW 11 (B,C,D,F,G) J Long 8-9-7 .... P McCabe (5) 5
8 500- SHERBLU 24J (B) J Fitch-Heyes 4-9-7 .... M Wigham 2
9 6-00 WADERS DREAM 12 (E,D,F) Pat Mitchell 6-9-7 .... J McLaughlin 13
10 000- CARTE BLANCHE 112 C Cyzer 4-9-2 .... D R McCabe (3) 11
11 100- LADY ROXANNE 205 (V,C,S) Lord Huntingdon 6-9-2 .... D Harrison 7
12 3-20 PAT POINDESTRES 18 (CD,BF,G) R O'Sullivan 5-9-2 .... D Biggs 14
13 00-5 SWEET WHISPER 4 (V,CD,G) K McAuliffe 4-9-2 .... J Weaver 4
14 0-32 PRINCE RUDOLF 11 (V,D,G) Mrs N Macauley 3-8-5 .... M Fenton 6

7-2 Prince Rudolf, 5-1 Our Shadee, 6-1 Sweet Whisper, 7-1 Make The Break, Finjan, 8-1 Mr B Reasonable, Lady Roxanne, 10-1 others.

4.25 COLLINGWOOD HANDICAP
(£3,024: 1m 5f) (6)

1 65-4 TIGER SHOOT 26 (C,G,S) D Thom 8-9-12 .... L Newton (5) 2
2 110- PRINCELY GAIT 175 (CD,G) C Cyzer 4-9-11 .... T Ives 3
3 04-1 HATTAAFEH 21 (CD,G) M Jarvis 4-9-1 .... W Woods 5
4 -631 HEAD TURNER 9 (C,D,G,S) C Wildman 7-8-7 .... N Adams 1
5 0/00 AZUBAH 22 (F) J A Harris 8-7-11 .... N Varley (5) 6
6 0124 ROYAL CIRCUS 7 (CD,F,G) J O'Shea 6-7-11 .... J Quinn 4

7-4 Tiger Shoot, 11-4 Hattaafeh, 3-1 Head Turner, 5-1 Royal Circus, 8-1 Princely Gait, 25-1 Azubah.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Lord Huntingdon, 28 winners from 120 runners, 23.3%; J Berry, 19 from 86, 22.1%; K McAuliffe, 4 from 20, 20.0%; M Muggeridge, 7 from 39, 17.9%; M Johnston, 28 from 158, 17.7%; R O'Sullivan, 39 from 237, 16.5%.

JOCKEYS: Amanda Sanders, 4 winners from 15 rides, 26.7%; L Dettori, 53 from 201, 26.4%; L Suthern, 4 from 16, 25.0%; J Weaver, 34 from 147, 23.1%; D Gibbs, 4 from 23, 17.4%; R Painter, 4 from 28, 14.3%.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S TWO MEETINGS

Kelso

Going: good to soft (good in places)

1.30 (3m 1f ch) 1, Beyrouge (P Niven, 2-5 fav); 2, Distant Lady (8-1); 3, Countess Veruschka (9-2). 10 ran. 8l, nk. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £1 40; £1 10, £1.50, £1.30. DF: £4 80. CSF: £4.70

2.00 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Uncle Doug (P Niven, 85-40); 2, Golden Hello (5-4 fav); 3, Bang In Trouble (10-1). 15 ran. 2½l, 12l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £3.20; £1.40, £1.50, £1.70. DF £2.40 CSF £5.17.

2.30 (3m 4f ch) 1, Uranus Collonges (M Dwyer, 11-4, Richard Evans's nap). 2, Bluff Knoll (9-2); 3, Road By The River (33-1). Over The Deel 5-2 fav. 9 ran. 1½l, 14l. Jimmy Fitzgerald. Tote: £3.00; £1 30, £1.70, £8.60. DF: £9 40. Trio: £102.20. CSF: £14 65. Tricast: £297.56.

3.00 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Large Action (J Osborne, 4-6 fav); 2, Surrey Dancer (6-1); 3, Balabanoo (2-1). 8 ran. Nk, 1¾l. O Sherwood. Tote: £1 50; £1.20, £1 10, £1.20. DF: £3.50. CSF: £5 12. Tricast: £5 17

3.30 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Clay County (B Storey, 7-2); 2, Houghton (25-1); 3, Stay Awake (5-1). Leotard 11-4 fav. 7 ran. 1½l, 6l. M Hammond. Tote: £4 30; £2.40, £6 10. DF: £37.00. CSF: £57.99

4.00 (3m 1f ch) 1, Miners Melody (Mr J Greenall, 9-4); 2, Royal Jester (9-4); 3, Davy Blake (7-4 fav). 10 ran. 1½l, 1½l. P Cheesbrough. Tote: £3 40; £1.10, £1 10, £1 50. DF: £4.40. CSF: £7 80

4.30 (2m 2f hdle) 1, Willis Telmar (A Maguire, 3-1); 2, Lochnagrain (6-4 fav); 3, Another Venture (6-1). 17 ran. NR: Paradise Row, Valley Garden. 4l, 9l. J Johnson. Tote: £5 10; £2.30, £1.60, £3.50. DF: £7 30. CSF: £8.87.

Placepot: £6.80. Quadpot: £47.40.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: FURIETTO
(4.40 Sandown Park)

Next best: Banjo
(3.00 Sandown Park)

Southwell

Going: standard

2.10 (6f) 1, Portend (C Teague, 5-2 fav); 2, Superbird (16-1); 3, Nite-Owl Dancer (12-1). 9 ran. NR: Dolly Face. 7l, 1½l. S Bowring. Tote: £3 60; £1.20, £5.70, £2 40. DF: £55 60. Trio: £216 70. CSF: £37 84. Tricast: £382 59

2.40 (7f) 1, No Submission (L Dettori, 5-6 fav); 2, Battle Colours (5-1); 3, Super Benz (5-1). 7 ran. ¾l, 3½l. D Chapman. Tote: £1 50; £1 10, £2 40. DF: £3 10. CSF: £4.84. Alpine Johnny (9-1) withdrawn, not under orders — rule 4 applies to all bets, deduction 10p in pound

3.10 (1m) 1, Red (C Webb, 9-2: Our Newmarket Correspondent's nap); 2, Buddy's Friend (2-1); 3, Pc's Cruiser (15-8 fav). 6 ran. 1l, ¾l. S Woods. Tote: £5 30; £1 80, £1.50. DF: £4 10. CSF: £13 59

3.40 (1m 3f) 1, Shaft Of Light (L Dettori, 10-11 fav); 2, Beau Matelot (12-1); 3, Wisdom (3-1). 10 ran. 3½l, 2½l. Lord Huntingdon. Tote: £1 70; £1.10, £4 00, £1 80. DF: £8.30. CSF: £13 56.

4.10 (1m 3f) 1, Killing Time (M Fenton, 9-4); 2, Feline (7-1); 3, Durham (2-1 fav). 10 ran. 7l, 3l. Mrs N Macauley. Tote: £3 20; £1.10, £1 70, £1 70. DF: £7 60. CSF: £21.25

4.40 (1m 4f) 1, Palacegate Jo (L Dettori, 7-4 fav); 2, Who's The Best (11-2); 3, Thaleros (7-2). 8 ran. 2l, ¾l. R Hollinshead. Tote: £2 80; £1.10, £1 60, £2 40. DF: £8.40. CSF: £11 88. Tricast: £27 38.

Jackpot: £823.70.

Placepot: £6.20. Quadpot: £2.90.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Lingfield Park: 2.50 Thorniwama. 3.55 Sherblu. Sandown Park: 2.25 Absalom's Lady. Wetherby: 1 10 Dancing Reel. 3.15 Clonony Castle. Wolverhampton: 7.00 Shy Paddy. 8 30 Charlotte Penny. 9.00 Bonny Melody. 9.30 Scalp 'Em

Davis primed for title charge

By Phil Yates

MOST players only dream of capturing the Benson and Hedges Masters title twice, but for Steve Davis, the winner in 1982 and 1988, his record in snooker's most prestigious and lucrative invitation event is a source of nagging dissatisfaction.

Even in the mid-Eighties, when his domination was arguably even stronger than that enjoyed by Stephen Hendry nowadays, Davis inexplicably struggled to stamp his mark on a tournament that he holds in high regard.

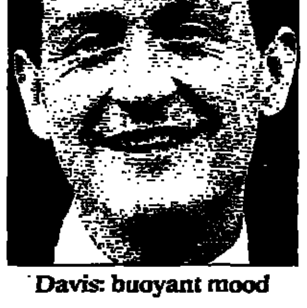
The theory that Davis, winner of six each world and United Kingdom championships, is less motivated when ranking points are not at stake does not stand up, because he has prevailed in the Benson and Hedges Irish Masters on eight occasions.

Davis finds the Wembley Conference Centre auditorium "imposing", but rates it high on his list of venues. Other than that, he is at a loss to explain his Wembley jinx.

Rarely, in recent years, has Davis begun his Masters challenge in such buoyant mood, however, and although Hendry is a short-priced favourite to collect the £120,000 first prize, the Scot's closest pursuer in the world rankings looks capable of success.

Six days ago, Davis arrived at a statistical milestone, and ended months of mounting concern about his form, by beating John Higgins in the final of the Regal Welsh Open.

It was the seventieth title of Davis's 17-year professional career, and, in terms of confidence, its timing could not have been better. "I think I've got a good chance at Wembley because suddenly I know in my own mind that I'm playing well again," he said.



Davis: buoyant mood

Terry Griffiths, the 1980 Masters champion, and, at 47, easily the oldest competitor in the select 18-man field, provides the initial opposition. In the last 16 of the European Open in December Griffiths beat Davis 5-2 and that unexpected result was repeated when they met in the first round of the Liverpool-Victoria Charity Challenge last month. The fact remains that Griffiths has won only seven of their 38 matches, however.

While Davis has undoubtedly re-emerged as a realistic contender in any tournament, Hendry remains the Masters specialist. His 9-8 defeat by Alan McManus in the final last year was his first in 24 matches at Wembley since making his debut in 1989.

Hendry, winner of the Top Rank Classic UK championship, European Open and Charity Challenge already this season, plays Nigel Bond, the world No 11, tomorrow night for a place in the quarter-finals.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Detroit 85 Cleveland 83; Seattle 106 Orlando 103; Houston 121 Utah 101; Sacramento 88 Chicago 68.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS CLUBS' CUP: Semi-final series: Group A: Maccabi Tel Aviv (Is) 80 Pesaro (It) 75. Group B: Bayer Leverkusen (Ger) 75 Olympiakos (Gr) 69; Barcelona (Sp) 76 Bologna (It) 70

BOWLS

YETTON TROPHY: Women's inter-club championship: Fifth round: Cumbria 99 Swinton 63; Boston 82 March 63, Beccles 99 Towerlands 70; Tye Green 85 Riverain 88; Malvern Hills 68 Croydon 81. Egham 76 Prince Arthur 57; Adur 79 Arun 87. British Cellophane 66 Plymouth Civil Service 94

CRICKET

First Test match

New Zealand v West Indies

CHRISTCHURCH (West Indies won toss, first day of five): New Zealand have scored 24 with loss against West Indies

NEW ZEALAND: First Innings

B A Young not out 16
D J Murray not out 4
Extras (nb 4) 4
Total (no wkt) 24

A H Jones, *K R Rutherford, S A Thomson, S P Fleming, †A C Parore, M N Hart, D J Nash, S B Doull and D K Morrison to bat

BOWLING: Ambrose 6-3-10-0; Walsh 5.4-2-14-0.

WEST INDIES: *C A Walsh, B C Lara, S C Williams, S L Campbell, K L T Arthurton, J C Adams, S Chanderpaul, †J R Murray, W K M Benjamin, C E L Ambrose, K C G Benjamin.

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Victoria 376-1 (D M Jones 218 not out, R Larkin 69, M Elliott 66 not out) v South Australia

CRESTA RUN

HANS BADRUTT CUP: 1, C Bertschinger (Switz) 32.88sec, 33.23, 33.39. Total: 99 48. 2, M Melcher (Switz) 33.49, 33 30, 33.48. 100.27. 3, J Badrutt (Switz) 33 69, 33.05, 34.36. 101.09. Leading British: 9, Lord Dalmeny.

GOLF

MONTEREY: Leading first round scores in the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am (US unless stated): 65: D Love III. 66: N Faldo (GB). 67: P Jacobsen, K Colner. 68: F Zoeller, L Roberts, K Perry. 69: D Stockton, H Sutton, H Twitty, F Funk, G Boros. 70: D Waldorf, T Watson, A Magee, M Brooks, J Carter, E Aubrey, J Furyk, W Wood, B McCallister, B Borowicz, R Mediate, S Gotsche, S McCarron, M Brooks, E Humenik, B Faxon, J Wilson, J Williamson

PERTH: Heineken Golf Classic: Leaders after two rounds (Australia unless stated): 136: D Smail (NZ) 67, 69. 138: P Moss (US) 66, 72. 139: R Green 74, 65; R Allenby 73, 66; D Ecob 68, 71. 141: M Allen 72, 69; P O'Malley 72, 69; P Zidar 71, 70. 142: W Grady 73, 69; S Leaney 73, 69; S Conran 72, 70. 143: R Welsh (NZ) 75, 68; M Stevens 72, 71; G Joyner 74, 69; P Senior 76, 67; J O'Keefe (US) 74, 69; J Van de Velde (Fr) 74, 69; S Wearne 74, 69; M Campbell (NZ) 70, 73; B Ogle 71, 72; M Clayton 71, 72; B Hughes 69, 74; G Chalmers 66, 77. British qualifiers: 144: I Garbutt (Eng) 70, 74. 145: W Bennett (Eng) 70, 75.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE (NHL): Boston 6 Ottawa 4; Florida 1 Montreal 1 (OT). New Jersey 5 Quebec 4; NY Rangers 3 Tampa Bay 3; Philadelphia 4 NY Islanders 5 (OT). Washington 0 Buffalo 1; Dallas 1 San Jose 2; Winnipeg 4 St Louis 5 (OT).

PREMIER LEAGUE: Milton Keynes 9 Peterborough 6

ICE SKATING

DORTMUND: European figure skating championships: Women (after short programme): 1, O Markova (Russ) 0.5 factored placings; 2, S Bonaly (Fr) 1.0; 3, M Butyrskaya (Russ) 1.5; 4, T Szewczenko (Ger) 2 0; 5, E Liashenko (Ukr) 2.5; 6, Y Lavrenchuk (Ukr) 3 0.

NORDIC SKIING

FALUN, Sweden: World Cup combined event: Ski jump section: 1, M Stecher (Austria, 95.5m, 96 0m); 2, K Ogiwara (Japan, 92.5, 91 5m) at 1:06; 3, T Koni (Japan) (90.5, 93.5) at 1:51.

RUGBY LEAGUE

BRISBANE: Coca-Cola World Sevens: Group matches: Papua New Guinea 26 Canada 6; Gold Coast Seagulls 40 Japan 0; Perth Western Reds 20 Western Suburbs 14; Brisbane Broncos 12 South Queensland Crushers 4; New Zealand 22 North Queensland Cowboys 14; Auckland Warriors 22 Canberra Raiders 4. Japan 14 Canada 8 (Japan forfeited result for fielding ineligible player). Gold Coast Seagulls 20 Papua New Guinea 16; Western Suburbs 14 Brisbane Broncos 12; South Queensland Crushers 26 Perth Western Reds 22. North Queensland Cowboys 24 Canberra Raiders 16; New Zealand 26 Auckland Warriors 10. Qualifiers for quarter-finals: Brisbane Broncos, New Zealand and Gold Coast Seagulls

RUGBY UNION

A INTERNATIONAL: Scotland 24 Ireland 18

UNDER-21 INTERNATIONAL: Scotland 22 Ireland 24.

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Scottish Universities 17 Irish Universities 22.

CLUB MATCHES: Haddington 13 KYM (Dublin) 5; Preston Lodge 11 City of Derry 21, Corstorphine 20 Suttonians 13.

TENNIS

DAVIS CUP: World group: First round: Naples: Italy and Czech Republic level at 1-1. A Gaudenzi lost to D Vacek 6-7, 4-6, 6-1, 6-7, R Furlan bt S Dosedel 4-6, 7-6, 6-4, 6-4. Karlsruhe: Germany lead Croatia 2-0. M Stich bt G Ivanisevic 7-6, 4-6, 6-1, 6-4; B Becker bt S Hirszon 6-4, 6-1, 6-3. Geneva: Switzerland and Holland level at 1-1. M Rosset lost to J Eltingh 6-4, 2-3 (ret), J Hlasek bt R Krajicek 4-6, 6-1, 6-3. Vienna: Austria and Spain level at 1-1. G Schaller lost to S Bruguera 1-6, 2-6, 2-6. T Muster bt C Costa 6-4, 6-4, 6-4. Antwerp: Russia lead Belgium 1-0. A Chesnokov bt F Dewulf 6-4, 6-4, 7-5. Copenhagen: Denmark lead Sweden 1-0. K Carlsen bt J Bjoerkman 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4. Durban: South Africa v Australia delayed by rain.

Asia-Oceania zone: First round: Group one: Philippines and Japan level at 1-1. India lead Hong Kong 2-0; South Korea lead Indonesia 2-0; New Zealand lead Taiwan 2-0. Group two: China lead Pakistan 1-0; Thailand and Malaysia level at 1-1. Sri Lanka lead Iran 2-0.

America zone: First round: Group one: Chile 1 Argentina 0

TOKYO: Women's tournament: Quarter-finals: L Davenport (US) bt A Huber (Ger) 2-6, 6-4, 6-2; I Majoli (Croatia) bt N Sawamatsu (Japan) 4-6, 6-3, 6-0; K Date (Japan) bt C Martinez (Sp) 0-6, 6-2, 6-3; M Maleeva (Bul) bt M Pierce (Fr) 6-3, 1-6, 6-3.

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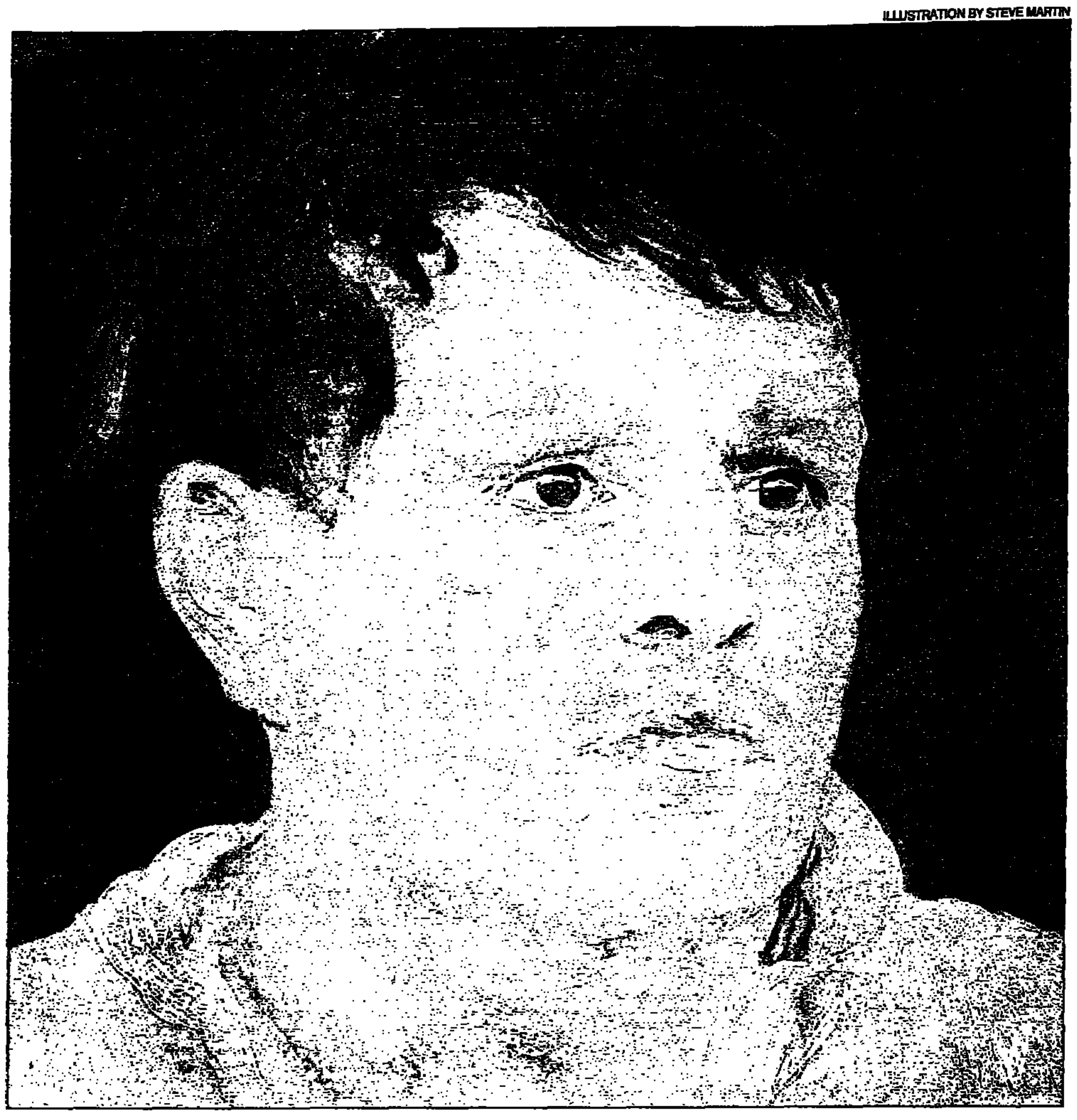
Saturday portrait: Dean Richards, by John Hopkins

Taciturn yeoman who sustains England's steady forward march

ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE MARTIN



A concrete corridor runs beneath the main stand of Leicester's ground and off it is a series of rooms. One room is where journalists gather before home matches and return after the game is over to write and enjoy a cup of tea and the best sandwiches in first-class rugby.

The walls of this room are decorated with photographs of Leicester players down the years — the hooker, Peter Wheeler, and the centre, Paul Dodge, both of whom also played for the British Isles, among them. One of the most striking photographs is of Dean Richards in a match against France at Twickenham in 1989.

The photograph is stunning in the message it gives. The massive frame of the England No 8 dominates the photograph as he leaps over a Frenchman. Catching Richards when he is in the air heightens the impression that he is a massive figure, which at nearly 18 stone he patently is. French hands are clutching at his thighs in an attempt to halt his progress.

Richards's hair is parade-ground short, his mouth set determinedly, his stockings around his ankles. He is cradling the ball in his left arm and has raised his knees high to clear the prostrate opponent. The symbolism is unavoidable. As Richards rose, so did his team. England won 11-0, the first of seven successive victories, including the 1991 World Cup semi-final.

"That's absolutely typical Deano," Chris Smith, the *Sunday Times* photographer who took the picture, said. "I remember he seemed to emerge from a group of players like a great whale rising from the sea. The French scrum-half is on his knees looking up at Richards in awe. Serge Blanco appears on the right of the photograph and looks perplexed."

The gun-barrel grey texture of the photograph creates the feeling that Richards is a man of steel and unswerving purpose. It is what so many photographs are not, worth a thousand words and, deservedly, it was named the rugby photograph of the year. Six years on and Richards, who will be 32 in July, has hardly changed. His fair hair is receding into a prominent widow's peak. Years of mayhem on rugby fields around the world have marked his otherwise youthful face.

His stockings remain lowered, the ankles revealing flagpole-thin legs that hardly look strong enough to support his massive chest and shoulders. Richards, who at 6ft 3½in is only just big enough for the No 8 position, gives the impression of having been hewn from a slab of Leicestershire granite. There is an aura around this yeoman of England. It is no surprise that he was born in the centre of the country, in Nuneaton, nor that he does a yeoman's job, that of a policeman. PC 941 spends his days patrolling the motorways around traffic headquarters in Enderby and there can be few more intimidating sights to someone who has just been pulled over than to have Richards rolling towards them intent on maintaining law and order.

> 'His ambling, rather uncoordinated gait resembles an arthritic old man trying to catch a bus'

Richards's heart is where his home is and you get the feeling that, while work could take him elsewhere, he is happiest in this heart of old England, where he was born, went to school — John Cleveland College, Hinkley — and now lives with his wife, Nicola, and Jessica, their 22-month-old daughter.

It is here that Richards is able to indulge in one of his main pursuits away from rugby — rough shooting. Pheasants, pigeons and rabbits are all liable to fall prey to his smoking 12 bore. It is not easy to prise from him the appeal of this sport, other than that he likes it and that it provides food for the family freezer.

Quiet to the point of taciturnity, there is not much humour to leaven the gravitas. One of his few jokes on record concerns England's game against France in Paris in 1986. "All that spitting, swearing and shoving," Richards said, "and that's just the spectators."

Now that Will Carling has silenced the critics of his captaincy and play and Stuart Barnes has forsaken the lowlands of the pitch for the uplands of journalism, some of England's positional worries have been solved.

In Richards's case, the argument is not whether he should be playing today, when he wins his fortieth cap, acting as the anchorman in England's massive, intimidating and potentially magnificent back row in their battle within a battle against France's massive, intimidating and magnificent back row. After Richards's immense performance against Ireland two weeks ago, the prospect of England going into a game without him is like watching someone attempt to drive a car without a steering wheel.

The concern centring on Richards is whether he is best suited for the World Cup on the firm grounds of South Africa in May and June. Richards's ambling, rather uncoordinated gait resembles an arthritic old man trying to catch a bus. It is not ideally suited to a game where speed over the ground is important.

To his credit, however, he appears fitter than ever this season, his desire whetted by the forthcoming South African campaign. Above all, he possesses what one leading rugby journalist describes as the greatest positional sense he has ever seen in a forward.

Richards is one of those men whose undemonstrative style of play enables others to catch the eye. Like a gentleman's gentleman, he does his job discreetly. While he attends to business at the coalface, using his massive upper-body strength to secure a ball or an opponent, his back-row colleagues, can, if they are so inclined, be prancing around like pit ponies on holiday.

It was Richards's workmanlike, selfless and unspectacular style of play for the British Isles in Australia in 1989 that contributed to Mike Teague being named player of the series. Likewise, would Tim Rodber have been able to make those crunching tackles against Ireland two weeks ago if Richards had not freed him from some of the basic chores?

What Richards does to a degree of excellence not often seen is grab the ball, make it secure for as long as he deems it necessary before he gives it a bit of a nudge so that someone else can move it forward, often in spectacular fashion. A Richards manoeuvre such as this can turn a match, as it did for England against Ireland in 1991.

Such selflessness and modesty make him a talisman among his Leicester team-mates, who have lost only one game while he has captained them this season, and in the white shirt of England. Richards comes into his own where and when the going is hardest, which partly explains why his colleagues consider him to be so valuable. In turn, this explains why no resentment is harboured against him for conceding the penalty that lost the British Isles the first Test against New Zealand in 1993.

At Twickenham this afternoon there could be glimpses of the dangers England face in South Africa if France move the ball regularly and quickly to the open spaces. Benetton, Benazzi and Cabannes, particularly Cabannes, have an edge in speed over Richards and his two colleagues. However, if England get the share of ball they want, and usually get when Richards plays, then it will not matter. It will be their ball. They can do with it what they want.

Scots intend to sparkle away from the spotlight

By Gerald Davies

SOONER or later a moment arrives in a journalist's time when, try as he might to do otherwise, he loses a friend or two because of something he writes. Because of what follows, this may appear to be such a moment. There is a danger that the match this afternoon between Scotland and Ireland at Murrayfield could be elbowed into the margins of the five nations' championship script: a kind of afterthought. Others have done it. As a Celtic cousin, I have no wish to comply: well, not totally, at any rate.

Judged by the column inches devoted to that "other" game and by the extensive coverage given in the media elsewhere, this match has almost been passed by as an irrelevance. What conspires in Edinburgh is of no more significance, it seems, than to determine who will take away the wooden spoon, while in London, in only the second weekend of the tournament, nothing less than the season's champion is already about to be decided.

Asked to comment on the view south of the border that this game will only decide who will end up bottom of the table, Gavin Hastings, the Scotland captain, replied that he found it an "interesting perception". You could feel the gall rising at the presumption.

To be fair, it is not only those south of the border or across the Channel who see it this way. Most of those in Scotland and Ireland perceive it as such, too. Those who observe matters from the sidelines have had little to convince them of an opposite view. Ireland's victory against the United States before Christmas lacked conviction and they failed to stop England's bandwagon in its tracks last month.

Scotland, for their part, albeit with a team reduced in strength, visited Argentina in the summer and lost all but one of their fixtures. Having lost heavily to South Africa in November, Scotland managed to arrest their series of nine consecutive losses in internationals by beating Canada a fortnight ago. This was hardly the stuff to rekindle optimism among their supporters. The players, by necessity, must look on things differently.

"We did gain confidence from that victory," Hastings said. "We're entering this game with an unchanged team and so are looking for an improved performance." He wins his 53rd cap, which establishes a record number of appearances for his country. Scotland's efforts will depend much on him and how he responds not only to the criticism that has recently been made of his play but also to the disc problem from which he has suffered for some time but more acutely of late. His influence is obvious, since he scored 17 of the 22 points his team registered against Canada, all from kicks at goal.

After their defeat against England, the Ireland selectors cut a swath through their team and originally made six changes for this game. But with Jim Staples withdrawing this week after being chosen, Conor O'Shea, who appeared against England, plays at full back. Bradley is restored for Hogan at scrum half and Bell for Woods on the wing. There are changes in the pack also. McBride is a flanker instead of Corkery, and Fulcher, who came in for Francis in that last match, keeps his place. Galwey is relegated to the replacements' bench and Johns moves from No 8 to lock. Ben Cronin is the new cap on the side of the scrum. Make what you will of all that.

If this fixture lacks the high profile of other contests, it may be because the teams rarely find themselves as front-runners for the championship or triple crown. But if other countries often fall under the weight of expectation, when deeds fail to match the hopes and a grim confrontation ensues, Scotland and Ireland, existing in others' shadows, invariably produce a contest of verve and colour. For that alone, the game should not be committed to a mere footnote. Scotland, who have not lost to Ireland since 1988, can be expected to extend this unbeaten run.

MURRAYFIELD TEAMS

SCOTLAND		IRELAND
A G Hastings* (Watsonians)	15	C M P O'Shea (Lansdowne)
C A Joiner (Melrose)	14	S P Geoghegan (Bath)
G P J Townsend (Gala)	13	B J Mullin (Blackrock College)
I C Jardine (Stirling County)	12	P P A Danaher (Garryowen)
K M Logan (Stirling County)	11	J C Bell (Ballymena)
C M Chalmers (Melrose)	10	P A Burke (Cork Constitution)
B W Redpath (Melrose)	9	M T Bradley (Cork Constitution)*
D I W Hilton (Bath)	1	N J Popplewell (Wasps)
K S Milne (Heriot's FP)	2	K G M Wood (Garryowen)
P H Wright (Boroughmuir)	3	P M Clohessy (Young Munster)
R I Wainwright (Edinburgh A)	6	A G Foley (Shannon)
D F Cronin (Bourges)	4	P S Johns (Dungannon)
S J Campbell (Dundee HSFP)	5	G M Fulcher (Cork Constitution)
I R Morrison (London Scottish)	7	W D McBride (Malone)
E W Peters (Bath)	8	B M Cronin (Garryowen)

Referee: W D Bevan (Wales)

Replacements: 16 I C Glasgow (Heriot's FP), 17 A G Shiel (Melrose), 18 D W Patterson (West Hartlepool), 19 G W Weir (Melrose), 20 A P Burnell (London Scottish), 21 K D McKenzie (Stirling County).

Replacements: 16 N K P J Woods (Blackrock College), 17 E P Elwood (Lansdowne), 18 A C Rolland (Blackrock College), 19 M J Galwey (Shannon), 20 G F Halpin (London Irish), 21 T J Kingston (Dolphin).

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Hastings will be hoping the rebuilt Scotland team can match the magnificence of Murrayfield

Hastings looks to future rather than past glories

Mark Souster talks to the respected captain who will become Scotland's most-capped player against Ireland at Murrayfield today

Talk to anyone who knows Gavin Hastings and the response is invariably the same. Good man, great ambassador for Scotland and rugby. A man with no edges. Meet him and the impression is the same.

It is evident that Hastings's dignity, thoughtfulness and ability to put people at ease, together with an unflinching sense of purpose and unshakeable commitment to the team, be it Cambridge University, Watsonians, Scotland or the British Isles, have marked him out as someone special.

There is genuine affection, not just within his native country, for Hastings, who today wins his 53rd cap against Ireland at Murrayfield, eclipsing the Scotland record held jointly by Jim Renwick and Colin Deans. Not that records mean that much to him at the moment, if they ever did. He would no doubt trade a few caps for the guarantee of a couple of wins in the five nations' championship this season, if only to silence the critics who have written off the team, and to stop the sniggering rumoured to be emanating from certain quarters in England.

It is only in retirement, probably this summer, that Hastings will reflect on his considerable achievements, which include a Scotland record of 489 points, captaining the national side on 12 occasions, and being a widely respected leader of the 1993 British Isles side in New Zealand. But the statistics alone do not explain the impact he has had on Scottish rugby over the past nine years. He has been the inspiration and the common thread which has helped knit Scotland together through the good and, more recently, the less successful times.

The traumas of the past 18 months, during which Scottish rugby has been held up to public ridicule, with Hastings's role also being called into question, have hurt a man who in the pain of defeat against England a year ago shed tears for his country.

The demise in Scotland's fortunes, he believes, can be pinpointed to November 20, 1993, the day a black cloud, an All Black cloud, enveloped Murrayfield. The 51-15 defeat was a hammer blow from which Scotland are only just beginning to recover. Since then there's also been the abject and frustrating capitulation against South Africa.

"Not my best game," he admits, adding: "I'm prepared to accept mistakes if people learn from them. Not if they're not. I'm not happy if people get complacent. There is too much complacency at international level. The rewards are so great that you have to be ruthless."

Hastings can draw comparisons between the present situation and 1986, when he burst onto the international scene with 18 points against France. Then, much the same as now, Scotland were rebuilding. Hastings and his brother, Scott, were the youngsters, and now, with Scott's absence from the national team after 51 appearances, Gavin is the father figure to some promising but raw talent.

"When Scott and I came into the team, John Rutherford [the former Scotland stand-off half] described us as a breath of fresh air. But that was after a season or so when we had both proved we could achieve at the top level. Now, with the team reshaping, I do get excited about some of the new boys. But we need to start winning games. I hope I can then make similar comments about the youngsters in the team."

With Scotland struggling of late, Hastings, 33, has been a target for criticism, but he is likely to retire in his own time, not at the behest of others. When the the moment finally comes, how would he like to be remembered? "As a passionate Scot who had the respect of his colleagues. But I'm not looking for tributes. They'll have to wait just a little longer."

Unsung Cronin happy to have arrived

By David Hands

IT WOULD be just Ben Cronin's luck if, when he finally makes his debut for Ireland against Scotland today, his thunder were to be stolen by another player of the same name making his five nations' comeback: Damian Cronin returns to the Scotland second row.

Not that the Irish Cronin will mind unduly, so long as he makes it onto the Murrayfield pitch. A late-developing back-row forward, his debut is even later than it might have been: he was forced to withdraw, injured, from the game against the United States last November.

A native of Limerick in Ireland's deep south, Cronin escaped the junior representative net. His education came at the Cistercian College in Roscrea and Waterpark College, but there were no schools caps nor even under-21 appearances for him. He vaulted onto the national stage at Musgrave Park, in Cork, on October 21, 1992.

Munster were playing Australia in an increasingly fractious match. Towards the end, Mick Galwey and Garrick Morgan were sent off and, with only two minutes to go, Charlie Haly levelled the score with a penalty. In the final minute, Munster won a lineout. Jim Galvin, the replacement stand-off half, swung his boot and the dropped goal sealed a famous victory.

During the post-mortems, little was said about the fair-haired No 8, in only his second game for the province, who helped to construct a penalty try from a collapsed scrum under the Australian crossbar and whose prowess allowed Munster to dominate the lineout. That was Cronin, proving how successful his move from Waterpark to Garryowen had been. He was promptly selected for an A international and should have played in the final trial, but for a severe leg injury.

Last season he virtually disappeared from view until, as Ireland made their injury-strewn way through Australia, he was summoned as a late replacement for Roger Wilson. This season, he has never been out of the frame. Standing 6ft 5in and just over 16st, his bustling form in the A international against England last month earned him the cap that has for so long seemed tantalisingly out of reach.

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Players must put their house in order

ROB HUGHES

Weekend View

Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, is to represent Eric Cantona when he appears before a Football Association hearing on February 24. Good luck to him. Taylor is fond of the term "duty of care" and, while Cantona cannot speak up for himself in public, not even to show remorse for the incident at Selhurst Park a fortnight ago in which he clashed with a spectator, the union will try to ensure that the FA does not exacerbate the action Manchester United have already responsibly taken.

Yet defending the indefensible is one thing: surely the greater priority for the players' union is to try to get a grip on its members, some of whom seem to have gone berserk.

This week, Italian television crews were in England searching for panaceas for hooliganism after the stabbing to death of a supporter in Genoa. As they did so, English football came periously close not only to the injury of a spectator from the flying boots of a player, but, on Wednesday, injury to a referee by an incensed supporter.

The Italians will have witnessed the fragility of the peace that has been acquired in English grounds since the Hillsborough disaster. They will also know that peace comes at the costs of tens of millions of pounds, to sit spectactors down, and millions more to produce what is effectively a police state in and around football grounds, which, through the pervasive eye of hidden television cameras, takes away basic rights of citizens in order to protect them.

What good is all of this if players are to behave like pack animals, shouting at referees at every twist and turn during matches? Alan Shearer, a veritable hero to supporters of all ages, was the pack leader in the Blackburn Rovers match against Leeds United. After Rodger Gifford, the referee, had, with exemplary judgment, sent off the Blackburn goalkeeper, Tim Flowers, the players on both sides seemed determined to undermine his every decision.

The referee awarded two penalties, penalties that were, in the word of Alan Hansen, the television critic, "debatable" — but that is no excuse for insurrection. Indeed, there was not a single player willing to congratulate the referee on his brilliant positioning and adroit decision in disallowing a Leeds goal after the ball had struck an upright and bounced along the goalline.

Then, at the end, the furious supporter rushed onto the field. Who knows what harm he may have inflicted on Gifford? In the event, he was prevented by the Blackburn reserve goalkeeper, Bobby Mimms, and by the fact that the referee and linesman were already being verbally abused by Shearer and company. This is the behaviour that Gordon Taylor has a greater duty to police.

In addition, football is suffering from the frustration and disorderly response of players and managers — and, from Everton, even a chairman — who appear not to understand that there is a new code of refereeing in operation, ordered by Fifa, the world governing body.

Everton were incensed after two players were sent off during their 2-0 defeat by Newcastle United on Wednesday night, but how can Everton complain when it is clear that their players are exceedingly crude? Indeed, while Joe Royle was being so critical of another referee — David Elleray, at Newcasle — the opposing manager, Kevin Keegan, was lamenting the rank indiscipline of Everton. Seeing the same decisions, Keegan said that it was a surprise only two Everton players were dismissed.

There was also recently the horrendous body-check by the Aston Villa goalkeeper, Mark Bosnich, against Jürgen Klinsmann, which was similar to the infamous charge by Toni Schumacher, the Germany goalkeeper, on Patrick Battiston, of France, in the 1982 World Cup. There may yet be a charge from the FA over Bosnich's "tackle". In fact, the time is coming when police prosecutions are inevitable after such fouls. When will the participants, so self-centred in their chase for riches, realise that they are performers in a public place, performers whose actions are subject to the law of the land?

Meanwhile, in Argentina, Diego Maradona is back in trouble. Banned worldwide as a player, he has re-emerged as a coach and, after being ordered from the touchline for insulting a referee on Monday, he promptly took part in a brawl when his Racing Club players fought with Independiente supporters. In a game flooded by problems, the famous are finding new depths.

Hillsborough impact, page 9

McGhee looking for transfer of fortune at Filbert Street

By Russell Kempson

DESPERATE times at Filbert Street, the home of Leicester City, call for desperate measures by Mark McGhee, the manager. Thus, as the heat intensifies in the basement of the FA Carling Premiership, McGhee made further moves yesterday to strengthen his ailing troops. He signed Mike Galloway, from Celtic, on a month's loan, and also announced that Garry Parker, of Aston Villa, may soon follow.

Galloway, 29, a midfield player, joined McGhee's escape bid from relegation after a two-day trial in training had successfully tested a hamstring strain. He will make his bow today in the home match against West Ham United, who are experiencing similar strife in the Premiership.

Leicester and Villa are believed to have agreed a £650,000 deal for Parker, the former England Under-21 and B international, and McGhee will discuss personal terms with him next week. "Garry is a quality player who I rate very highly," McGhee, the former Reading manager, said. "I hope to persuade him to sign for us."

After replacing Brian Little at Filbert Street in December, McGhee swiftly realised the magnitude of the job. Leicester lost four of the first six league matches for which he was in charge. A transfusion of new blood appeared the only answer, and since buying Jamie Lawrence, for £175,000 from Doncaster Rovers, and Mark Robins, for £1 million from Norwich City, his fortunes have improved, slightly.

Leicester's sequence of nine Premiership outings without a win ended with the 1-0 victory at Manchester City, Robins scoring on his debut, and they beat Portsmouth 1-0 in the FA Cup last weekend.

Little's controversial departure from the East Midlands, and subsequent move across to Villa, has proved more fulfilling, once the initial antagonism between the clubs had died down. Villa have been beaten only once in 11 league matches since he took over, and, in recognition of his efforts, Little has been rewarded with the manager-of-the-month award for January.

"I'm absolutely delighted," Doug Ellis, the Villa chairman, said. "When Brian arrived, we were in relegation trouble, with only 13 points from our first 15 games. Since his arrival, together with his new team, the position has improved. He has introduced a different type of discipline. Villa's progress will undergo severe examination when they visit Manchester United today.

Everton are still involved in the scramble to avoid the drop into the Endsleigh Insurance League, despite the much-heralded appointment of Joe Royle as manager in November, and will view the home match with an inconsistent Norwich City as an opportunity for maximum points. Their early surge under new guidance has evaporated, with only one win from their last five fixtures in the Premiership, and the dismissals of Earl Barrett and Barry Horne in the 2-0 defeat at Newcastle United on Wednesday will not help.

"I've set us a target of 50 points," Royle said. "To reach that, we have to win our home games because our away form has not been good. If we beat Norwich, it'll put us on the 30 mark and we'll move to within a handful of points of Chelsea and Norwich, who were a mile ahead when I took over."

Manchester City face an equally important match, at Southampton — "I'm getting fed up with saying: 'This game is vital for us'," Brian Horton, the City manager, said — while Chelsea's trip to Coventry City and Crystal Palace's journey to Ipswich Town are dare-not-lose situations for all concerned.

DARREN WALSH

Parker will discuss personal terms with McGhee at Filbert Street next week

Graham denies claim of illegal approach

GEORGE GRAHAM yesterday became the latest FA Carling Premiership manager to become embroiled in an undignified war of words when he hit back at claims that he had made an illegal approach for John Salako, the Crystal Palace winger (Russell Kempson writes).

Ron Noades, the Palace chairman, was reported to have said: "It is typical of Arsenal. I don't know why they don't just ring the player and speak to him directly." Graham countered: "It is a complete lie. I'm not interested in Salako at all and there has been no contact between myself and the player, or between the clubs, about him. I take great exception to any suggestion otherwise and if the remarks from Mr Noades are accurate, I will demand a written apology."

Denials were also forthcoming over claims that Les Ferdinand, the Queens Park Rangers striker, would soon be joining Arsenal for £5 million. "Absolute rubbish," Ray Wilkins, the Rangers manager, said. Graham agreed. "We have not been in touch . . . about Les since our initial interest was revealed months ago," he said.

Bob Murray, Sunderland's leading shareholder, said yesterday that the board of directors would stand down if the right buyer for the Endsleigh Insurance League club could be found. Murray said: "Any potential investors must be prepared to place a considerable sum of money at the disposal of the manager."

Arlesley's patience rewarded

ARLESLEY Town had to wait until Wednesday before it was confirmed that they would meet Diss Town, the holders, in the fifth round of the FA Vase today (Walter Gammie writes). Diss were taken to a second replay before winning 3-0 away to Ossett Albion.

Top place in the South Midlands League underlines the form, under the managerial partnership of Robbie O'Keefe and Paul Cavener, of a club whose only immodesty is to put a Town after its name. John Albon, the secretary, said: "We're a village really but call ourselves Town because we couldn't call ourselves Arlesley Village, could we? We realise our size and status and will consider going into higher football only if finances allow."

With Hitchin Town, who are based only four miles away, playing at Carshalton, Arlesley hope to attract a crowd of 1,000.

Ashton United gained their reward for a harrowing trip to Billingham Synthonia by winning their FA Trophy tie at the second attempt and lining up a home match against Macclesfield Town, the Vauxhall Conference leaders, in the second round. The UniBond League first division side had battled to Billingham for the first match as snow swept the north, and then endured a nine-hour journey home when the floodlights failed after 65 minutes with Billingham leading 2-1.

Two goals from Andy Baines secured a 2-1 win on the return visit.

☐ Inter Cardiff, the Konica League of Wales club, yesterday appointed George Wood manager in succession to Lyn Jones, who has rejoined Merthyr Tydfil to replace Colin Addison.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Faldo keeps in touch with first-round lead

NICK FALDO was one shot off the lead after the first round of the PGA Pebble Beach Pro-Am golf tournament in California yesterday, finishing with a round of 66, six under par. "The round felt good," Faldo said, although he did express a regret about the loss of a tree on the course that he had climbed to play a shot during the US Open. The tree was damaged by heavy rains, and Faldo said: "I would have taken it home with me had I known it was in trouble."

Davis Love III was the first-round leader, his 65 taking six hours to complete since the 180 professional players and as many amateurs were allowed to lift, clean and replace balls. Peter Jacobson and Kawika Cotner scored 67s while Kenny Perry and Loren Roberts were another stroke off the pace. Roberts and his partner, Robert Gibson, a Texas oilman, led the pro-am pairings at 61, 11 under par.

Germany dominate

TENNIS: Michael Stich gave Germany a perfect start to their Davis Cup first-round tie against Croatia in Karlsruhe yesterday with a 7-6, 4-6, 6-1, 6-4 victory over Goran Ivanisevic in the opening singles. Stich kept his nerve on the fast indoor court to win in 2hr 17min. The former Wimbledon champion, who led Germany to their third Davis Cup triumph in 1993, had to work hard to cope with Ivanisevic's big serve. In the second match, Boris Becker beat Sasa Hirszon 6-4, 6-1, 6-3 to give Germany a 2-0 lead. In Copenhagen, Sweden, the holders, suffered a setback when Magnus Larsson pulled out of the match against Denmark, complaining of stomach pains. Jonas Bjoerkman took Larsson's place.

Gardiner's world plan

BOXING: After five successful defences of the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) featherweight title that he won two years ago, Steve Robinson, of Wales, is running out of opponents (Srikumar Sen writes). Should Robinson beat Domingo Damigelli, of Argentina, at the Ice Rink, Cardiff, tonight, he will have to look further for his next opponent. Dai Gardiner, Robinson's manager, said that he would probably seek to unify the titles. Colin McMillan, the former WBO featherweight champion, makes a return after 15 months' inaction because of a dislocated shoulder, on the undercard against Shaun Anderson.

Markova just ahead

ICE SKATING: Olga Markova, of Russia, edged ahead of Surya Bonaly, from France, the four-time champion, after the women's short programme at the European championships in Dortmund yesterday. Olga Butyrskaya, another Russian, was third in a programme that required eight basic moves, spins and jumps and counts for one-third of the total score. Markova, 21, from Moscow, who was third last year, offered a flowing interpretation of *Harlem Nocturne* that included the tough jump combination of triple lutz-double toe loop. She scored 5.5 to 5.8 for technical merit and 5.7s and 5.8s for presentation. The free programme is today.

Champions bow out

TENNIS: Mary Pierce, the Australian Open champion, and Conchita Martinez, the Wimbledon champion, were each beaten in three sets in the quarter-finals of the Pan Pacific Open tournament in Tokyo yesterday. Pierce, the No 2 seed, who won her first grand slam title in Melbourne last Saturday, lost 6-3, 1-6, 6-3 to Magdalena Maleeva, of Bulgaria, the No 7 seed. Two hours earlier, Martinez, the No 1 seed, lost for her fourth consecutive match to Kimiko Date, of Japan, after winning the first set to love. Date, the No 5 seed, went through 0-6, 6-2, 6-3.

Newcomers raise hopes

HOCKEY: England venture into the Indira Gandhi tournament in Delhi today with a match against Kazakhstan, who were sixth at the Asian Games in Hiroshima last October. Eight members of the England squad of 16 have no international experience at senior level, but some of the best young prospects, including Giles and Conway, raise hope for the future. Crutchley, Hazlitt and the goalkeepers, Mason and Luckes, provide the nucleus. England also have India and Malaysia to contend with in pool A. Australia, South Africa, South Korea and Poland form pool B.

Bertrand slips but triumphs on appeal

From Barry Pickthall in San Diego

JOHN BERTRAND, skipper of *oneAustralia*, took an unexpected dive during the America's Cup challenger race against Peter Blake's all-conquering *Team New Zealand* yesterday, but then came back from his dip in the Pacific Ocean to reverse the finishing order in the protest room.

The former America's Cup-winner missed his footing when rushing up to help push *oneAustralia's* boom out during this exciting Antipodean clash, and then, embarrassingly, stumbled into the water.

"I'm going to hear about this for a long time to come," Bertrand said after becoming only the second skipper in the 142-year history of the competition to have gone for a swim before the victory celebrations begin. The other was Bruno Trouble, who fell off Baron Bich's French challenger in 1977, also after rushing forward to stop the boom from swinging over.

Bertrand's saving grace was a spinnaker sheet dragging in the water. "I grabbed that sucker and didn't let go. I was aquaplaning pretty good back there before they pulled me back onboard," he said, with some pride. "Thankfully we lost only half a boat's length, and it didn't make any difference to the outcome of the race. If it had, I would never be allowed to live it down."

What did change the outcome of the race, however, was Bertrand's protest against the New Zealand practice of having a man stationed at the top of the mast for the pre-start manoeuvres and on the downwind legs. The jury ruled that, at times when the yacht heeled, the torso of Murray Jones, the mast man, was outside the sheerline of the boat and disqualified *Team New Zealand* as a result.

In other challenger races, Marc Pajot's *France 3* scored a welcome victory over *Nippon '94* by a two-minute, 24-second margin, and Chris Dickson's *TAG Heuer Challenge* beat *Sydney '95* by 12½ minutes, the largest winning margin to date. The continued light weather forced the cancellation of racing on the defender course.

LOUIS VUITTON CHALLENGE TRIALS: Second round: TAG Heuer Challenge (C Dickson, NZ) bt Sydney '95 (S Fischer, Aus) 12min 24sec. oneAustralia (J Bertrand) bt Team New Zealand (R Coutts) disqualified. France 3 (M Pajot) bt Nippon '94 (M Namba) 2.24. Overall standings: 1, Team New Zealand 10pts; 2, oneAustralia 9; 3, TAG Heuer Challenge 7; 4, Nippon '94 5; 5, Sydney '95 4; 6, France 2 (M Pajot) 3; 7, Rioja de España 0.

CITIZEN CUP DEFENCE TRIALS: Overall standings: 1, Stars & Stripes (D Conner) 7pts; 2, Young America (K Mahaney) 5; 3, America³ (L Egnot) 3.

Luna seeks to land first tour victory

By Our Sports Staff

SANTIAGO LUNA, of Spain, stepped up his challenge for his first PGA European Tour victory yesterday with a second successive 67 in the Madeira Island Open, securing a two-stroke lead over Liam White, of Nottingham. The Madrid player, who has never finished higher than fourth since turning professional in 1982, had an eagle and five birdies to double his overnight lead.

White, 26, moved into second place, also recording a 67. The tour school qualifier also returned a two-under-par eagle at the 548-yard 2nd, holing from 25 feet, and finished the round with a 15-foot putt for his fourth birdie.

A member of the 1991 Walker Cup side, White's first season on tour saw him run out of money. He just missed out on qualifying again via the mini-tour. Ignacio Garrido, of Spain, denying him by winning a tournament where the prize-money was increased at the last moment.

"It was distressing and I still felt so distraught about it the following season that I walked off the course three times," he said. "People told me that I would be a stronger person when I came out of the tunnel and, although I thought that was rubbish, I do feel stronger now.

"I've played fantastic golf these two days. My putter let me down yesterday, but I was more cautious today."

Rolf Muntz, of Holland, the former British Amateur champion, and Olle Karlsson, of Sweden — who has recovered from a serious car accident — share third place on six under par, four behind Luna. Christian Cevaer, of France, who is joint fifth on five under, was fined £500 after recording 18 breaches of the tour's slow-play rules during his 69.

LEADING QUALIFIERS FOR FINAL TWO ROUNDS (GB unless stated): 134: S Luna (Sp) 67, 67. 136: L White 69, 67. 138: O Karlsson (Swe) 72, 66; R Muntz (Hol) 72, 66. 139: J Coceres (Arg) 72, 67, C Cevaer (Fr) 70, 69; K Cross (Swe) 72, 67, A Sherborne 68, 71, J Sandelin (Swe) 69, 70, J Spence 72, 67, S Tinning (Den) 74, 65. 140: P Lawrie 68, 72; B Marchbank 69, 71, G J Brand 72, 68, D Edlund (Swe) 73, 67, E Darcy 69, 71; P Curry 73, 67; L Westwood 68, 72; B Malley (US) 68, 72. 141: R Alvarez (Arg) 71, 70; F Regard (Fr) 69, 72; P Broadhurst 69, 72; J McHenry 75, 66. 142: B Barnes 71, 71; P Mayo 74, 68; N Briggs 71, 71; M Archer 70, 72. 143: I Spencer 72, 71; M Gronberg (Swe) 71, 72, J Robinson 71, 72; J Wilshire 71, 72, M Jonzon (Swe) 73, 70; K Waters 73, 70. D Smyth 72, 71. I Pyman 75, 68. A Collart 69, 74, J Mellor 71, 72, P Affleck 72, 71, C Larrain (Ven) 71, 72, P Golding 70, 73; W Riley (Aus) 73, 70; P Baker 72, 71, D Robertson 73, 70. 144: T Gogele (Ger) 73, 71, M Roberts 73, 71; D Williams 70, 74, D R Jones 75, 69, J Piñero (Sp) 70, 74, E O'Connell 72, 72; S Watson 74, 70; J Hawksworth 72, 72, G Emerson 70, 74. R Karlsson (Swe) 75, 69, M James 69 75, J Gronhagen (Swe) 72, 72.

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SATURDAY FEBRUARY 4 1995

Recent form irrelevant when five nations' championship resumes today

Grand opportunity awaits victors

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

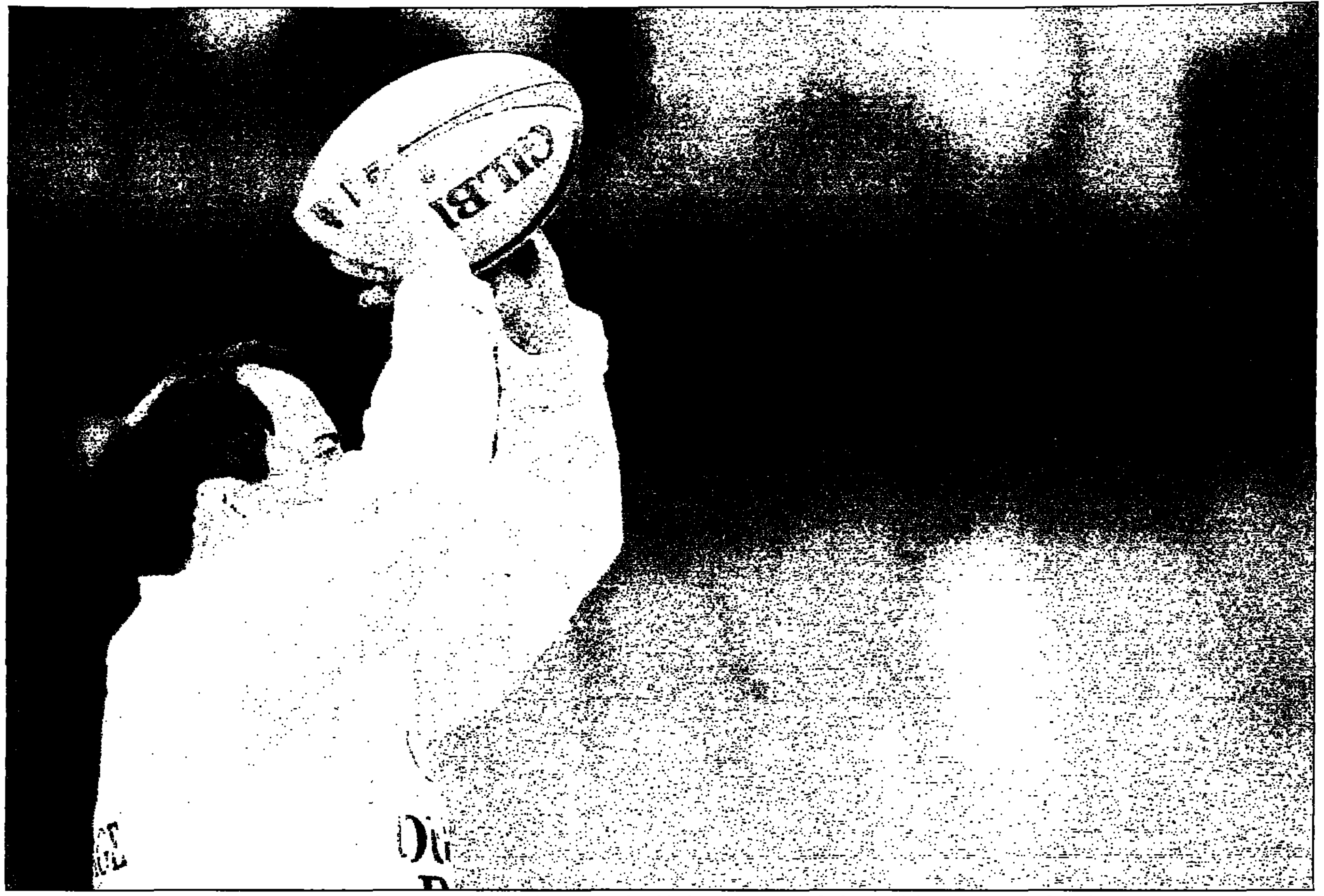
WHEN France last won at Twickenham, rugby union's inaugural World Cup had yet to be played, the Geoff Cooke management era had yet to be introduced in England and not one of the France XV that will play today had pulled on a five nations' championship jersey save for Philippe Sella.

The year was 1987. Sella scored a try in a 19-15 victory and France went on to win the championship. Since then, they have won two more outright titles and shared a third, while England, their opponents today in the Save and Prosper international at Twickenham, have won the championship only twice; which serves to show that dominance against a particular opponent is no guarantee of championship success.

Yet, should France break their bogey today, they will surely hope to head for the World Cup in South Africa this summer as champions of Europe. Already, they have disposed of Wales, the 1994 champions; the Scots have never won at the Parc des Princes, and the French have not lost to Ireland, who play in Scotland today, since 1983.

The 11-0 victory in 1989 hinted at England's potential; it was realised in 1991 in a glorious grand-slam epic to which France contributed hugely though lost 21-19. In 1993, in a somewhat flat encounter, there was no more than one point in it, and England's comfort is that they have won far more emphatically in the past four matches played in Paris.

Record prices 1
Forward progress 38
Hastings record 38


Brian Moore, the England hooker who today faces France for a ninth time, practises his throwing-in skills during a training session yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

None of which means a great deal to the England of today; a developing team, half of whom go back only to 1993 as far as their experience of the French is concerned. However, in the psychological make-up of the game, England have the comfort of seven straight wins behind them; France have the itch that will not go away.

"I don't say we've got an inferiority complex, but we do tend to let them dictate the way the game is played," Philippe Saint-André, the France captain, said. "We have got to stamp our authority on the match for a change"

If they do so, it will surely be through the back row's ability to get wide swifter than England's, but that hinges upon a degree of set-piece dominance. The much-reviled Olivier Merle may not have been the most salmon-like of leapers in the lineout, but he anchored the scrum and moved around the field better than many may give him credit for.

Merle, however, has been dropped after his head-butt on Ricky Evans during the game with Wales last month, and Olivier Brouzet, who is tall, athletic but inexperienced, replaces him. Absent too is the injured Emile N'Tamack, but Philippe Bernat-Salles, his replacement, does not leave the team noticeably weaker.

If England can exert themselves at the set pieces, then there will be less freedom for the France back row to roam. Such a dangerous runner as Laurent Cabannes will be tied in or, at best, forced to combat the wave of England No 8s that will come battering at him, ball in hand.

FIVE NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP

DETAILS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	1	1	0	0	20	8	2
France	1	1	0	0	21	9	2
Ireland.	1	0	0	1	8	20	0
Wales.............	1	0	0	1	9	21	0
Scotland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

RESULTS: Ireland 8 England 20, France 21 Wales 9.

FIXTURES: Today: England v France, Scotland v Ireland. Feb 18: Wales v England, France v Scotland. Mar 4: Scotland v Wales; Ireland v France. Mar 18: England v Scotland, Wales v Ireland.

In horrid conditions in Dublin two weeks ago, the England back row was magnificent. Here, England seek to show that they can be pragmatic or expansive at will, but they hope to be the latter. "We hear that the French are conceding fewer penalties than in the past," Jack Rowell, the England manager, said. "The consequence is that goalkickers might have fewer chances. So we have to find ways of scoring tries."

Three tries against Ireland was one more than England scored in the entire championship last year — and the players acknowledge that it should have been double that — so nobody should doubt either the capacity or, more significant, the attitude. In Dublin, Will Carling, the England captain, excelled himself. He was more relaxed than of late and believes that the return of Jeremy Guscott, the excellence of Rob Andrew's refurbished game, the attacking potential of Mike Catt and the growing power of his forwards have drawn the focus away from him, leaving that rare blessing of space in which to think and play.

"I think we have more options going into this game than in many of the others," Carling said. "The 1991-92 side [which also won a grand slam] was rigid in what it could achieve.

"It was a good set-piece side and there was no point playing away from its strengths. This time, we have other strengths we want to work on." The promise is there; it should be fulfilled.

TWICKENHAM TEAMS

ENGLAND		FRANCE
M J Catt (Bath)	15	J-L Sadourny (Colomiers)
T Underwood (Leicester)	14	P Bernat-Salles (Pau)
W D C Carling (Harlequins)*	13	P Sella (Agen)
J C Guscott (Bath)	12	T Lacroix (Dax)
R Underwood (Leicester/RAF)	11	P Saint-André (Montferrand)*
C R Andrew (Wasps)	10	C Deylaud (Toulouse)
K P P Bracken (Bristol)	9	G Accoceberry (Bègles-Bordeaux)
J Leonard (Harlequins)	1	L Benezech (Racing)
B C Moore (Harlequins)	2	J-M Gonzales (Bayonne)
V E Ubogu (Bath)	3	C Califano (Toulouse)
T A K Rodber (Northampton/Army)	6	A Benazzi (Agen)
M O Johnson (Leicester)	4	O Brouzet (Grenoble)
M C Bayfield (Northampton)	5	O Roumat (Dax)
B B Clarke (Bath)	7	L Cabannes (Racing)
D Richards (Leicester)	8	P Benetton (Agen)

Referee: K W McCartney (Scotland)

*captain
Replacements: 16 J E B Callard (Bath), 17 P R de Glanville (Bath), 18 C D Morris (Orrell), 19 S O Ojomoh (Bath), 20 R G R Dawe (Bath), 21 G C Rowntree (Leicester).

*captain
Replacements: 16 S Viars (Brive), 17 Y Delaigue (Toulon), 18 A Macabiau (Perpignan), 19 M Cecillon (Bourgoin), 20 M de Rougemont (Toulon), 21 L Seigne (Brive).

Dalglish adds to criticism against referees

By Peter Ball

BLACKBURN Rovers must wait until next week to discover their punishment for the trouble at the end of their FA Carling Premiership match against Leeds United at Ewood Park on Wednesday night, when a spectator ran onto the pitch to confront Rodger Gifford, the referee. Gifford's report was received by the Football Association yesterday, but no decision was reached on the incident.

Even without discovering their fate, however, Blackburn joined in the week's debate over refereeing standards. Kenny Dalglish, the Blackburn manager, had bitten his tongue on Wednesday, although clearly unhappy with Gifford's performance. Yesterday, he broke his silence.

"I remember a time when officials used to be anonymous, but were very respected," Dalglish said. "Now they are well-known but there isn't the same respect for them."

Gifford had a mixed game on Wednesday, but his cause was not helped by the constant haranguing from the Blackburn players. Manchester United have come under a searching criticism for putting pressure on referees, but some Leeds players said that, on Wednesday's performance, Blackburn were as bad or worse.

With the draw meaning Blackburn failed to extend their Premiership lead to seven points, that might have been a sign that pressure is beginning to take its toll. Yesterday, Alex Ferguson, the manager of Manchester United, suggested that nerve could prove the deciding factor in the title race.

"What will be to our advantage over the next few months is that we have been here before, while Blackburn haven't," Ferguson said. "I think we've got the ability anyway, but that experience may be the extra thing in our favour. After last season, we know what it is like to be looking over your shoulder. We had a bigger lead then than Blackburn have now, but, even, so the nerves started to jangle when Blackburn started to narrow the gap."

With Blackburn playing at White Hart Lane on Sunday, United can close the gap to two points, at least for 24 hours, if they beat Aston Villa at Old Trafford today with Paul Scholes partnering Andy Cole for the first time.

Rob Hughes, page 39
Desperate times, page 39

England miss chance to follow square route

From Alan Lee
Cricket Correspondent
in Perth

IF Michael Atherton has had bad dreams on tour, they almost certainly resembled the events of yesterday here. This was the scenario he had dreaded. England, primed to pursue the improbable prize of a squared series, might have taken control of this final Test, reimposing the mood of their victory in Adelaide, but for dropping four catches.

The charity began with the fourth ball of the game and, sadly, gave Graham Gooch's farewell Test a gruesome start. Let nobody say it was a simple chance to Gooch at third slip but, at full stretch to his right, he got two hands to the ball and spilt it. Michael Slater had not scored at the time. He went on to make 124.

He should still not have scored so many, because Devon Malcolm, the aggrieved bowler in the opening over, dropped him twice more, on 59 off his own bowling and on 87 at long leg off Phillip DeFreitas. Neither catch was difficult for an international cricketer, even one as short-sighted as Malcolm, and the expression of despair that appeared on Atherton's face after the third reprieve was graphic.

By then, Slater and Mark Waugh were beyond the century mark in a third-wicket stand that was ultimately to produce 183 runs. Yet it had yielded only 25 when Waugh, misjudging the extra bounce of the pitch, as successive batsmen were to do all day, cut Chris Lewis straight to gully, where John Crawley put him down.

Australia, who entered this game in chastened condition and, after winning the toss, had lost their first two wickets for 55, could so easily have spent last night pondering the embarrassing possibility of a second defeat by opponents their nation had scorned. Instead, they slept contentedly on 283 for four, while Atherton added a few exasperated mental notes to his tour diary.

There has been potential for a day such as this all series. England's fielding has regularly creaked and crumbled under pressure and the loss of Graeme Hick increased the prospect of calamity. With Hick in the side, indeed, Gooch's suspect reactions would not have been needed in the slip cordon.

Atherton revealed earlier this week that his official end-of-tour report will include strong words about the fielding standards that could be expected from the selected party. "Taking a weak fielding side to Australia makes life very difficult. It has been the most glaring difference between the teams and it drags the whole side down, affecting spirit and confidence. We made the same mistake four years ago, under a different captain and a different set of selectors, and in my report I shall say it must never happen again."

PERTH SCOREBOARD

Australia won toss

AUSTRALIA: First Innings

M J Slater c Lewis b DeFreitas ... (297min, 231 balls, 13 fours)	124
*M A Taylor c Rhodes b Lewis .... (58min, 36 balls)	9
D C Boon c Ramprakash b Lewis .. (10min, 8 balls)	1
M E Waugh c DeFreitas b Lewis .. (243min, 177 balls, 10 fours)	88
S R Waugh not out .... (74min, 39 balls, 2 fours)	23
G S Blewett not out .... (58min, 57 balls, 3 fours)	17
Extras (b 6, lb 4, w 4, nb 7)	21
Total (4 wkts, 90 overs, 372min)	283

†I A Healy, S K Warne, J Angel, C J McDermott and G D McGrath to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-47 (Slater 33); 2-55 (Slater 38); 3-238 (M E Waugh 85), 4-247 (S R Waugh 5)

BOWLING: Malcolm 19-1-76-0 (w 4; 6-1-15-0, 6-0-35-0, 4-0-16-0, 3-0-10-0). DeFreitas 19-5-57-1 (nb 2; 6-1-23-0, 5-2-10-0, 8-2-24-1); Fraser 23-7-65-0 (6-0-26-0, 3-1-8-0, 3-1-10-0, 8-3-19-0, 3-2-2-0); Lewis 19-5-44-3 (nb 6, 7-1-13-2, 3-0-15-0, 4-0-13-0, 5-4-3-1), Gooch 1-1-0-0 (one spell); Ramprakash 9-0-31-0 (one spell).

ENGLAND: G A Gooch, *M A Atherton, M W Gatting, G P Thorpe, J P Crawley, M R Ramprakash, †S J Rhodes, C C Lewis, P A J DeFreitas, A R C Fraser and D E Malcolm.

Umpires. K E Liebenberg (South Africa) and S G Randell (Australia).

☐ *Compiled by Bill Frindall*

Though Malcolm was to become the villain, ending the day with figures of nought for 76 to accompany his two fumbles, his first, menacing spell deserved better. He delivered his six new-ball overs at great pace, without making the common mistake on this ground of pitching too short.

There was something in the surface for the bowlers throughout the day but the consistent pace and bounce made it a pitch on which batsmen could hit through the line with confidence once their eye was in. Neither Mark Taylor nor David Boon reached that happy stage. Both fell to the rejuvenated Lewis, who took four wickets on Monday afternoon to bring victory close in Adelaide and now added two more in his first two overs of the game.

Boon, well caught at cover from a diffident, checked drive, now has five consecutive failures to his name and can no longer be certain of touring the West Indies next month. Not so Slater, who became the first man on either side to total 500 runs in the series when he had made 46.

Risk is part of Slater's game and it makes him all the more watchable. Between lives, he played strokes that were exquisite and others that were outrageous. How many openers, for instance, dare to drive Malcolm back over his head? Yet Slater, with his whirling arms and balletic footwork, does it as mere routine. With the finesse of Mark Waugh at the other end, this was a partnership to savour.

With the score 151 for two, Atherton felt obliged to seek variety and tossed the ball to Mark Ramprakash. This was his first Test since last April in Antigua, which was also the last time he bowled a spell of such length. In Antigua, he had three overs; last summer, in the county championship, he bowled a total of two. It was hardly an attractive attacking option for England.

Slater completed his century with, by his standards, muted celebrations. But he need not have felt embarrassed about England's shortcomings. This was his third hundred of a series to which he has given many memories. He batted a further hour before Lewis, at point, grabbed a slashed cut at the second attempt. Although Waugh quickly followed to an idle leg-side flick, England could not make up the surrendered ground.

Gooch goes to ground after dropping Slater in the first over in Perth yesterday. Photograph: Graham Morris

Photograph, page 37
Selection problem, page 37

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WEEKEND

A VERY ORDINARY MUGGING

by Finbar MacMahon

Cambridge city centre, Saturday morning, 2.45am: I am lying on my back in the middle of the road. Above me five drunken yobs, intent on stealing my taxi, search desperately for the keys. Three cars speed by in quick succession; the wheels of the last one so close to my face I can smell the burning rubber as the driver swerves, then brakes hard to avoid hitting me.

I am paralysed with fear. I think: this is it, any moment now I'll be just another crime statistic, either run over by the next car or kicked to death by these hooligans. "I can't find the f*****g keys," screams one young man, from inside the taxi. What he doesn't know is that I'd managed to snatch the keys from the ignition and slide them under the mat when he and his thug-friends dragged me from behind the steering wheel.

From where I lie, I can see the late-night drinkers as they queue for taxis at the rank across the street. Young men less than half my age, they are mostly stupefied, unable to function properly. Two are so obtusely drunk they relieve themselves, quite openly, against the back wall of Emmanuel College. Others are shouting, swearing, making lewd gestures at a solitary, weeping girl. None is more than 30 paces from where I lie, terrified, unable to defend myself. Not one of them moves to help me.

When I was a young man this kind of behaviour was inconceivable. In the 1950s and 1960s we enjoyed ourselves to the point of exhaustion, and sometimes beyond. We all got a little drunk, a little out of hand; the occasional one-on-one punch-up perhaps, nothing more sinister.

But there was none of this seemingly endless seeking-out of mayhem: gangs of youths, tooled-up, bloodied, marauding through the streets, intent on violence for its own sake. Glassings, kickings and beatings were not a way of life. Middle-aged men and women were deferred to, treated with respect; but now, here in Cambridge, the middle-aged and the elderly hurry by, heads down for fear of eye contact, watching their backs, desperate for the safety of their own homes.

Cambridge, of course, has always had its "little local difficulties". But the centuries-old friction between "town" and "gown" has, in the 1990s, given way to something far more sinister — much more menacing — than straightforward youthful exuberance. We are now — here in Cambridge, as elsewhere — living in the age of the violent thug.

And the rise in violent crime in Cambridge has reached staggering proportions. The belief that this is a quiet, idyllic, academic backwater untouched by the phenomenon of late 20th-century violence is a nonsense. Last year's 30.5 per cent city rise in crimes of violence against the person, compared to 9 per cent in the county and 6 per cent nationally, tells its own story. Even gritty Huddersfield, a town not normally perceived as being "idyllic", shows only a 3.7 per cent rise in violent crime.

Five minutes before I was attacked, I had approached the taxi rank in my empty cab. I'd taken all the precautions we part-time cabbies have been told are a necessary part of survival on a Friday night in Cambridge: read the body language; couples where possible; nobody with food; and nobody, absolutely nobody — *under any circumstances* — carrying bottles.

But before the wheels had stopped turning, two yobs had jumped the queue and were sitting in my cab. Sitting beside me was the bigger of the two; deeply tanned, wearing a black T-shirt with the word "Lanzarote" printed in white on the front, he was undoubtedly the one in charge. "Chesterton please . . . *if you don't mind, mate,*" he said in

Continued on page 3, col 1

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CHOICE

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DANCE

John Percival

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET: Two attractive programmes are brought to the company's former London home this week. Cranko's comic *Pineapple Poll* is given on Tuesday and Wednesday as a 70th birthday tribute to Sir Charles Mackerras, who made the spritely arrangement of melodies from Gilbert and Sullivan operas. With this are Balanchine's dramatic *Prodigal Son*, to Prokofiev's music, and the first London showing of young Matthew Hart's *Street*, to William Russo's "blues concerto" for harmonica, played by Paul Jones (vocalist with Manfred Mann in their 1960s glory days). Then the funniest, most brilliant and touching of all modern ballets, Ashton's *La Fille mal gardé* (Thursday 9 to Saturday 11).

Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, London, EC1 (0171-713 6000), Tues 7 to Sat 11 at 7.30pm; matinées: Wed 8 and Sat 11 at 2.30pm. ♿

HELL BENT: Nigel Charnock's latest solo show comes to London for a season at the Drill Hall after an ambitious tour. Continuing his exploration of sexual attitudes, he combines his skills as an actor and a dancer to show a camp drag artist at odds with his situation. Not for people who are easily shocked, but a gripping performance.

Drill Hall, Chenies Street, London, WC1 (0171-637 8270), Tues 7 until Sun 26, 8pm except Mondays.

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR: Terry Hands may not quite succeed in proving Ford's near-cuckolding by Falstaff an *Othello* story that ends happily; but, with a lordly Denis Quilley as the fat knight and a scowling Richard McCabe as the thin husband, his revival is big, generous and packed with humorous detail.
Olivier, National Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-928 2252). Mon 6 to Thur 9, 7.15pm; matinée: Thur 9, 2.15pm. Continues in repertoire. ♿

EASTER: Director Katie Mitchell's talent for cramming a stark stage with human feeling has seldom been better illustrated than by this unsentimental, touching revival of Strindberg's most forgiving portrait of the family.
Pit, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC1 (0171-638 8891). Mon 6 to Thur 9, 7.15pm; matinée: Thur 9, 2pm. ♿

● *More theatre, page 6*

JAZZ

Clive Davis

CLEO LAINE/ANNE HAMPTON CALLAWAY: Quite a coup for the Green Room: Cleo Laine's residency (in which she will be accompanied as usual by John Dankworth) gives her an opportunity to unveil material from her most recent album, *Blue and Sentimental*. Now that she is — unbelievably — pushing 70, Laine does not spend quite as much time in the vocal stratosphere, which means that she gives even more attention than usual to teasing out the full meaning of every lyric. With luck, she will treat audiences to her luminious version of "Creole Love Call". In a strong week for cabaret, Anne Hampton Callaway opens a three-week season at Hyde Park Corner. Callaway (no relation to the late Cab Calloway, incidentally) is a classy vocalist with a strong line in wisecracks.
***Laine*: Café Royal**, Regent St, London W1 (0171-437 9090), Tues 7 to Sat 18, 9.15pm; ***Callaway*: Pizza on the Park**, Knightsbridge, London SW1 (0171-235 5273), Mon 6 to Sat 25 (except Sundays), 9.15pm and 11.15pm.

Veteran songstress Cleo Laine

TUCK & PATTI/WARREN VACHE: Trying to slot the duets of Tuck Andress and Patti Cathcart into any single category always causes problems. Straddling the best traditions of jazz and soul, the couple from San Francisco are more likely to sing a Beatles or Stevie Wonder ballad than anything by Harold Arlen or Irving Berlin. This is music as simple and romantic as it comes. Cathcart's smoky gospel voice accompanied only by her partner's supple guitar. A new album, out in April, promises cover versions of Joni Mitchell and Jimi Hendrix. Warren Vaché approaches melodic popular song from a different direction. Like his colleague Scott Hamilton, he has done much to revive interest in vintage and mainstream jazz. His cornet playing grows more burnished with age. He appears on some of these dates with the fine swing guitarist Cal Collins.
***Tuck & Patti*: Jazz Café**, Parkway, London NW1 ♿ (0171-916 6000), Wed 8, 9.30pm; ***Vaché*: Hospital Field House**, Arbroath, Scotland ♿ (01241 872333), tonight, 8pm; **All Saints**, Woodham Lane, Woking, tomorrow ♿ (014837 62418), 8pm; **Pizza Express**, Dean St, London W1 (0171-439 8722), Mon 6, Wed 8.

HUGO GLENDINNING

In an exploration of sexual attitudes, Nigel Charnock dances *Hell Bent* at the Drill Hall, London

CLASSICAL

Richard Morrison

BENJAMIN RETURNS: When he was fresh out of Cambridge in the early 1980s, George Benjamin was celebrated in some quarters as the most talented young British composer to emerge since Britten in the 1930s. Not surprisingly, he found this overblown fanfare difficult to follow, and in recent years his output has not been prodigious. But his music is exquisitely crafted, and I hope the Hallé audience turns out in force to hear him conduct his orchestral work, *Sudden Time*, in a programme that includes Ravel, Stravinsky and Messiaen (with Messiaen's widow, Yvonne Loriod, the piano soloist in *Reveil des Oiseaux*).
Free Trade Hall, Peter St, Manchester (0161-834 1712), Thur 9, 7.30pm. ♿

TIPPETT FESTIVAL: The London Symphony Orchestra's 90th birthday tribute to Sir Michael Tippett opens tomorrow with a performance of the work that has brought him greatest fame, the wartime oratorio *A Child of Our Time*. It is as simple and direct an emotional statement as Tippett ever made, and has not dated at all. Sir Colin Davis conducts. In the concert's first half, incongruously, Katia and Marielle Labèque play the Mozart Concerto for Two Pianos.
Barbican, London EC2 (0171-638 8891), tomorrow, 7.30pm. ♿

ROCK

David Sinclair

CYNDI LAUPER/MCALMONT: One of life's natural attention-seekers, on stage Cyndi Lauper combines a distinctive musical talent with the energy and charm of a born showbusiness trooper. Support is the equally charismatic McAlmont, whose self-titled debut album has got star quality stamped all over it.
Brighton Dome ♿ (01273 709709), Tues 7; **Guildhall**, Portsmouth (01705 824355), Fri 10; **Albert Hall**, London SW7 ♿ (0171-589 8212), Sat 11, Sun 12; **Corn Exchange**, Cambridge ♿ (01223 357851), Tues 14; **Colston Hall**, Bristol ♿ (0117 9223682), Wed 15; **Manchester Apollo** ♿ (0161-242 2560), Thur 16; **Usher Hall**, Edinburgh ♿ (0131-228 1164), Sat 18; **Royal Concert Hall**, Nottingham ♿ (0115 9482626), Tues 22; **Sheffield City Hall** ♿ (0114 27228855), Thur 24; **Barbican**, York ♿ (01904 656688), Sat 26; **Birmingham Symphony Hall** ♿ (0121-212 3333), Sun 27.

THROWING MUSES: The success of their new album, *University*, may have surprised some observers. But, although it is nine years since the Bostonian group issued their debut LP, Throwing Muses is very much an act of the moment. Now a trio, they are led as always by singer, guitarist and songwriter Kristin Hersh.
Plaza, Glasgow (0141-423 3077), Wed 8; **Manchester University** (0161-832 1111), Thur 9; **Shepherds Bush Empire**, London W12 (0181-740 7474), Fri 10; **Tivoli**, Dublin ♿ (010 3531 4544472), Sat 11.

OPERA

Rodney Milnes

DER ROSENKAVALIER: There is a really juicy cast for this revival of the Schlesinger-Dudley-Bjørnson production of Strauss's comedy — and it changes to another, just as juicy, later in the run. To kick off, we have Felicity Lott's stately, vulnerable but — when the chips are down — surprisingly tough Marschallin partnered by Anne Sophie von Otter's boyish Octavian; Barbara Bonney sings Sophie, and the Baron Ochs is Aage Haugland. Tito Beltran sings the famous tenor solo, and Alan Opie is Faninal. Andrew Davis, a fervent Straussian, is in the pit.
Royal Opera House, Bow St, London WC2 (0171-304 4000), tonight, 5.30pm; Tues 7, 6.30pm. ♿

LA BOHEME: Angela Gheorghiu, the Romanian soprano who captured all hearts with her Violetta in December, returns to Covent Garden to sing Mimi in the popular Copley production of Puccini's relentless tearjerker. There is a new tenor for Rodolfo, always an event, in Johan Botha, and stalwart support from Marie McLaughlin and Anthony Michaels-Moore. The conductor is the Australian maestro Simone Young.
Royal Opera House, Bow St, London WC2 (0171-304 4000), Fri 10, 7.30pm. ♿

FILMS

Geoff Brown

AMATEUR (15): The cult director Hal Hartley steps out of the rut he fell into in *Simple Men* with a cockeyed, romantic thriller about a nymphomaniac nun (Isabelle Huppert), an amnesiac pornographer (Martin Donovan), and some incriminating floppy discs. Hartley persists with his cryptic visual style and circular dialogue, but the plot gives the film more momentum than usual, and by the end you even start to care for the fate of the main characters: two lost souls, amateurs at living, trapped in a muddle of desires, ambition and self-doubt. This is Hartley's most popular film to date.
Lumière (0171-836 0691); **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666), **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098); **Renoir** (0171-837 8402); **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233).

LEON (18): A taciturn, near-illiterate hitman in New York displays his Achilles heel when he takes under his wing a precocious, orphaned 12-year-old. Bullets and blood galore here, but also much cinematic panache, courtesy of Luc Besson. Jean Reno displays admirable restraint as the zombie-like killer; would that Gary Oldman, playing a corrupt and manic drug enforcement officer, followed his lead. It is a pleasure to find a thriller that takes the time to savour atmosphere, and treats most of its characters with respect, at least until the bullets fly.
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096), **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148); **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666), **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098), **West End** (01426 915574); **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332).

● *More films, page 6*

MUSEUMS

John Russell Taylor

GILES: The terrible family created by Carl Ronald Giles (to give him for once his full name) in the pages of the *Daily Express* seems to have been part of British life for so long it comes as a surprise that it is only 50 years since Grandma made her debut. Before 1945, Giles (now in his 80th year) worked extensively in animated films, collaborating with Anthony Gross on *The Fox Hunt*, the first colour cartoon made in Britain, and during the war made propaganda cartoons for the Ministry of Information. Some recently rediscovered footage is featured in this tribute, along with his early left-wing political cartoons for *Reynolds News*. But it is the actions and reactions of the Giles family which ensure his immortality.
Christchurch Mansion Museum, Christchurch Park, Ipswich (01473 253246), Tues-Sat, 10am-5pm; Sun, 2.30-4.30pm, until Mar 19.

L.S. LOWRY: THE MAN AND HIS ART: As a student and long-time resident of Salford, Lowry naturally felt a particular loyalty to the place, and the Art Gallery there has an unrivalled collection of his paintings, as well as having staged the biggest Lowry show to mark his centenary in 1987. Now it has put together a touring exhibition, which provides a vivid, basic guide to the artist's eccentric life and highly individual art.
City Museum and Art Gallery, Bethesda Street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent (01782 202173), Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm; Sun, 2-5pm, until Mar 19. ♿

GALLERIES

Richard Cork

DONALD JUDD: The grand master of minimalism returns. This new survey, at Oxford's Museum of Modern Art, turned into a memorial show after Judd's death last year. He is seen at his most austere in a seven-unit plywood work, and at his most sumptuous in the richly coloured sculpture of his later years. Some of his multi-coloured wall-pieces are also on view at Waddington Galleries in London. But the Oxford survey emphasises his full range, embracing woodblock prints, furniture and architectural projects. It also documents the ambitious series of sculptures Judd made for Marfa, a remote Texas location where he established a museum of his own and other artists' work.
Museum of Modern Art, Oxford ♿ (01865 722733), until Mar 26; **Waddington Galleries**, 11 Cork Street, London W1 (0171-437 8611), until Sat Feb 11.

TATSUO MIYAJIMA: A trip to the Queen's House in Greenwich will reveal the latest ambitious project masterminded by Artangel, who organised Rachel Whiteread's much-mourned *House*. The Japanese artist Tatsuo Miyajima has transformed Inigo Jones's Great Hall into an arena for electric counters. They glide through the darkened chamber, counting numbers at different speeds and glittering like stars. Miyajima's obsession with time here receives spectacular expression, in his first commissioned European venture.
Queen's House, Romney Road, Greenwich, London (0181-858 4422), until Mar 5: Tues-Thur, 4.30-7pm; Fri-Sun, 3-6pm.

CHILDREN

LONDON

Chinese New Year Celebrations — The Year of the Pig: Traditional celebrations in Soho, with decorations hanging from the windows and street processions, including the famous lion dances.
Gerrard Street, Leicester Square WC2. Tomorrow, 11am-6.30pm.

See a Chinese lion dance

A Patchwork Quilt: This is the story of a grandmother sewing a quilt made from her memories. Based on the novel by Valerie Flournoy.
Polka Theatre for Children, 240 The Broadway, Wimbledon SW19 (0181-543 4888). Age 6 and over. Previews: Thur 9; open Fri 10 until April 8. Thur 2pm and 7pm; Fri 10.30am and 2pm; Saturdays 2pm and 5.30pm. Tickets £6. ♿

The Magic Flute: Mozart's opera set in the world of rock stars, penthouses and the environmentally aware. Also in repertoire with *Ten in a Bed*, an adaptation of Allan Ahlberg's book telling the story of Dinah Price who finds not just the Three Bears, but Simple Simon and Puss in Boots in her bed.
Unicorn Theatre, Great Newport Street WC2 (0171-836 3334). Tickets from £4. ***Ten in a Bed:*** *today, tomorrow, Sun 12, 2.30pm: various performances until April 1;* ***The Magic Flute:*** *Sat 11, 2.30pm; various performances until Feb 26.* ♿

CAMBRIDGE

Magic Mirrors: Quicksilver Theatre for Children presents this play which explores reflections and images.
Cambridge Drama Centre, Covent Garden, Mill Road. Today, 11am; John Falkner Infant School, Sawston. Today, 3.30pm. Tickets £3.25. Age 3-5 years (01223 322748). ♿

LINCOLNSHIRE

High Fliers: An exhibition of colourful and original art kites made by artists, children and people with disabilities.
Boston Guildhall Museum, South Street, Boston (01205 365954). Today until March 25. Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm; adults 90p, children 65p. ♿

MANCHESTER

Museum of Science and Industry: Take a trip out of this world in the Super X Simulator; or visit underground Manchester, walking through a reconstructed Victorian sewer.
Museum of Science and Industry, Liverpool Road, Castlefield (0161-832 2244). Open daily 10am-5pm. Admission: adults £3.50, child £1.50. ♿

MERSEYSIDE

The Beetles Story: Learn about the small bugs, not the more famous Merseyside two-legged variety.
Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool (0151-207 0001). Tomorrow, 11am, £1. Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm; Sun, noon-5pm. Admission free. ♿

SCOTLAND

Cinderella on Ice: Fast-moving fairy-tale performed by the Russian All Stars. Set to Prokofiev's music.
King's Theatre, Leven Street, Edinburgh (0131-220 4349). Tues 7 to Sat 11, 7.30pm, Wed 8 and Sat 11, 2.30pm. Tickets: adults from £9, children from £4. ♿

YORKSHIRE

Dolls of the World: Exhibition of costumed dolls from around the world.
Colne Valley Museum, Cliffe Ash, Golcar, Huddersfield (01484 659762). Opens today, until March 12. Sat and Sun, 2pm-5pm. Admission: adults 90p, children 45p.

Great Expectations: Spectacular new musical adaptation of Charles Dickens's novel, with Darren Day and Brian Glover.
Leeds Grand Theatre and Opera House, 46 New Briggate, Leeds (0113 245 9351). Tues 7 to Sat 18. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; matinées, Thurs and Sat, 2.30pm. Tickets: adults from £5.50, children half price. ♿

HEATHER ALSTON

Ruth Gledhill was invited to preach at the University Church of St Mary in Oxford

AT YOUR SERVICE

IF THOSE who cannot do, teach, maybe those who can do preach, and those who cannot preach impeach preachers. After more than a year of reading the star ratings awarded to his clerical brothers and sisters in *At Your Service*, and after *The Times* joined with the College of Preachers to launch a Preacher of the Year Award, the Rev Brian Mountford decided vengeance would be his. Putting me in the pulpit if not exactly in the dock, he invited me to deliver my own exhortation at the Oxford university church, knowing perfectly well that I could be condemned if I did and equally well condemned if I refused.

As I stood in the vertiginously high carved wooden pulpit in the church, I felt, like Job, the hair of my flesh stand up. This was where John Wesley, founder of Methodism, denounced the laxity and sloth of university members, and was never asked to preach again. I was in the exact spot from where John Keble, in 1833, preached the Assize Sermon which launched the Oxford movement, an attempt to revive catholic spirituality in the church. Near by was Cranmer's Pillar, from where the author of the Anglican *Book of Common Prayer* withdrew all his recantations of protestant belief before he was burnt at the stake in 1556. This was once the church of a personal hero, Cardinal John Henry Newman, leader of the Oxford movement and convert to Catholicism, and was where two of the Oxford martyrs, Ridley and Latimer, went on trial. The sickening thud of my terrified heart felt like the sandman cutting the beam from my eye which I had been too busy regarding the motes in my brothers' eyes to notice. The first meeting of the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief, later to become Oxfam, was chaired here in 1942. St Mary's is the church around which the university grew up, and which, in the 13th century, was the seat of university government. The Princess Royal has spoken here, and tomorrow, Desmond Tutu, Archbishop of Cape Town, will preach.

I have often wondered why vicars make so few jokes in sermons, and now I know. There is a time to weep, and a time to laugh, but perhaps neither is in church. I took as my text Genesis 9: 20-27 in which Noah, first tiller of the soil, planted a vineyard and drank so much wine that he passed out and lay naked inside his tent. I earnt some restrained laughter by arguing that Noah was not so much biblical as bibulous, but the main thrust was my attempt to understand the apparent injustice meted out to Ham's son, Canaan. Ham saw his father naked and told his brothers, Shem and Japheth, who covered Noah's body with a cloak, their faces averted so they did not see him. Ham's sin was to broadcast the news of his father's shame to the world. Of course the tale has chilling relevance to journalism today, and led me to speculate whether we are not the latter-day scribes unto whom is given such "woe" in Matthew's gospel. It has even more relevance, I argued, to those celebrities and children of celebrities who seem determined to blame their ills on their parents. But it still seemed a bit much for Noah to curse Ham's child and condemn him to be "most servile of slaves" to his brothers.

Trying to ignore the occasional person who seemed bored or asleep, I went on to argue the case for filial respect, for importance of the fifth commandment: "Honour thy Father and Mother", and for the ease with which parental morals and behaviour can be visited unto the third and fourth generation. Concluding that "the story is not about a terrible vengeance, but about actions and their consequences, about the way certain actions beget others", I realised too late that fear had trebled my normal speaking speed. Managing to slow down at last for: "A sin and a good deed have consequences, they are fathers to the deeds that follow," I descended the pulpit with relief, legs still shaking, and feeling irrepressible respect for the clergy and laity who, week after week, clothe themselves with trembling in the loneliness of the pulpit.

ROBIN MAYES

From the pulpit, Ruth Gledhill delivers her sermon at speed

The University Church of St Mary the Virgin, High Street, Oxford, OX1 4AH. Tel: 01865 243806.

VICAR: The Rev Brian Mountford

ARCHITECTURE: Intricate church in the centre of the old walled city, with the tower dating from 1280, the spire from 1315 and the nave rebuilt in the Perpendicular style in 1510. ★★★★

SERMON: Delivered at "breakneck speed" according to Stephen Glover in this week's *Evening Standard*. One star for effort. ★

MUSIC: Apart from the *Gloria*, the choir sang the mass, to the Tallis setting. The hymns were little-known numbers from the *New English Hymnal*. ★★★

LITURGY: Holy Communion celebrated beautifully by the Rev Rebecca Watts, from the *1980 Alternative Service Book*. ★★★

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Offer of parish lunch, plus helpful feedback on sermon. General verdict was, "content OK, delivery needs improvement." ★★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH: At once chastening and exhilarating. ★★★★

★ stars are awarded to a maximum of five.

Continued from page 1

an absurdly polite way. I should have known that the very tone of the request meant trouble. I should have realised that this young man's apparent courtesy was at odds with his beer-coarsened face. But I didn't, and anyway it was too late because he and his friend were already on board. The only choice available to me was to throw them out: which, in my state of health and at my age — 54 — was no choice at all.

"All right," I said nervously, snapping on the meter, pulling away from the kerb.

"But I'd be grateful if you didn't smoke," I added, my eyes flicking towards the rear-view mirror.

"F***k you, mate, I'll do what I f*****g well like," came a voice from behind. Oh God, I thought, here we go. *I should have known.*

"Lanzarote" reached for the handbrake, pulling it sharply upwards. The engine stalled.

"What ... what're you doing?"

"Shut it, mate."

"I beg your pardon?"

"I said, *grandad* ... shut your f*****g mouth!" he shouted, outside now, helping three more of his friends into the back of the taxi.

He threw himself again into the front seat, locking his door as he did so. "Now, grandad, for the last time ... *get your arse up that f*****g fen!*"

"I'm sorry," I said, "I can't breathe." My hand shaking, I reached to turn off the meter. My emphysema was getting worse, much worse. "I'm licensed to carry four passengers," I gasped. "I'm not taking five."

"You know what your problem is, grandad?" my front-seat passenger asked, his face inches from mine, spittle flecking his stubble. "You're *old*, grandad, that's your problem. You shouldn't be allowed ... You're just *too f*****g old!*" I glanced in the rear-view mirror again. Four pairs of eyes caught the light from the street lamp and I thought I saw a bottle being raised to a mouth. There was a smell of burning. Someone laughed. A short metallic click — the child lock? A flick-knife? Then silence.

The atmosphere was changing, deepening: a sense of foreboding was seeping into the taxi like mist. Something — something against which I had no defence — was about to happen. I ran my hand nervously through my hair. I thought: I don't need this. I can't go on. I need the money, but I simply can't go on. Every weekend's the same: blood, violence, vomit: young men shouting, farting, swaggering, lying in wait for the unwary. I decided there and then that I would never again drive a taxi at night on the streets of Cambridge.

"Get the f*****g keys," shouted a voice from behind. Three doors burst open simultaneously. Suddenly two of the louts were outside my door. A hand reached through the open window; it felt for the ignition keys, but they were not there. "Give 'em here, grandad. Gimme them *f*****g keys!*" shouted the ringleader. Another hand pulled at the door handle from outside. I hung on to the plastic-covered handle on the inside: fighting against the pull on the door. Slowly, inevitably, the door was dragged open. My strength was ebbing. I made a despairing grab at the chrome window frame but I was too late. A hand reached for the collar of my shirt. With a final, decisive jerk I was pitched head first into the street. Christ, I thought, these yobbos really mean business; they are actually going to kill me.

> ❛ You know what your problem is grandad? You're old. You shouldn't be allowed ❜

I lay there, on my back, gasping for air. My efforts at resistance had overwhelmed me. I'd almost stopped breathing. My body made periodic, involuntary movements like a fish, flapping to death, laid out on a concrete sea wall.

Silence. Then a shout: "For f***k's sake leave him alone," followed by scuffling noises.

Now I think: my inhaler. If I don't get to my inhaler, I'll suffocate. I glance up towards the taxi and — I don't believe it — there's nobody in it. Four of the hooligans are now squaring up to each other. The big one moves to the other side of the taxi, to intervene. A bottle, missing its target, explodes against the door of a house on the opposite side of the road. As it does so, a man and a woman, elderly, married university types, turn the corner from Parker Street. They stop briefly; on their faces a look of horror and disbelief at the scene confronting them. The man's eyes flick, quickly, to where I lie — surely he'll raise the alarm? — and then quickly back to his wife. The couple disappear hurriedly, back round the corner, in the direction of Parkside police station.

And "Lanzarote" and his friends continue in their eerie, slow-motion ritual of violence. Forgetting me for the moment, they concentrate on each other. There are the sounds of clothing being ripped, of leather shoes scraping along the pavement. But, strangely, the impact of knuckle on bone, devastating as it appears to be, seems to make no noise at all.

"Every weekend's the same: blood, violence, vomit: young men shouting, swaggering," Finbar MacMahon (above) says

"Poofters!" shouts one hooligan, brandishing a thick leather belt. "F*****g poofters!" he shouts again, giving the finger as three of the thugs, tired of the contest, leap the wooden fence and disappear into the shadows.

Not believing my good luck, I drag myself to my feet. I slide into the driver's seat. I grab for the doors, pulling shut and locking each one in turn. I check that all the windows are closed. I reach for my inhaler, taking deep draughts. I sit there for a moment, unable to move, cold sweat running down inside my shirt. But I'm safe. I keep telling myself, I'm safe ... I'm safe!

I grope for the ignition keys under the mat. I find them. The engine starts first time.

There's a shout: "The old bastard — get him!" I can see the big thug, and his one remaining friend through the windscreen. Arms flailing, eyes bulging, "Lanzarote" is incandescent with impotent rage. He leaps at my taxi. His fist smashes against the side window. The window disintegrates. The engine stalls for the second time. His hand reaches through the broken window. It finds the keys. I close my eyes, waiting for the fist that I know will break my teeth. I hear the sound of cars stopping, feet running.

I wait and wait but, unbelievably, that fist does not come.

I open my eyes. There are police officers everywhere. In their midst, surrounded on all sides, stand the thug and his friend. Suddenly it is they who are vulnerable. Transfixed disbelieving, surrounded by policemen, they are now at *my* mercy.

I lose all control. A sort of madness born of terror takes over. I jump from the taxi. I point a shaking, accusing finger at my chief tormentor.

"That's him, that's the bastard who terrorised me!" I scream. A crowd begins to gather and now I'm ashamed — ashamed, for God's sake — that I've lost control. And then I begin to shake, so violently, I have to place my hand on the roof of the taxi to steady myself.

"Are you all right, sir?" asks a policeman, but all my attention is focused on the thugs as they are frog-marched past me towards the waiting police van. The big one glances in my direction. For a split second our eyes meet. I seize the moment and, horribly, find myself shouting: "You know what your problem is? Your problem is you're *scum!* You're *slime!*" And again, I'm ashamed — ashamed and angry— that I too, with my intemperate language, have plumbed the depths.

"Are you all right, sir?" the policeman asks, again. But, for the moment, I can say nothing; I've just found out something horrible about myself.

My statement at Parkside police station was a prolonged, time-consuming affair. The interviewing police officers asked me to recount my experience in every last detail. Endlessly patient, sensitive and solicitous, they calmly talked me through the events as though they had all the time in the world.

Later, I learned that no charges were to be preferred against the second youth but that the chief thug was to pay £110 for the damage to the taxi, failing which he would be charged with criminal damage. And later still, secure in my own home, I thought: this time I'm lucky, my name's not been added to the list of 15 taxi drivers murdered in the UK in the last 26 months; I'm not on a life-support machine; and the police have got their man. In a way, I felt triumphant.

But it was not really a triumph for me or the middle-aged or, indeed, the police. Because the next day the realisation dawned that things could so easily have gone the other way; that, if luck had not been on my side, I could have ended up another bloodied body lying in a hospital morgue.

> ❛ The window shattered. I close my eyes, waiting for the fist that will break my teeth ❜

So, depressed and beaten, I handed in my notice at the taxi company; driven, finally, I believed, from my part-time job, from making my living, by a culture of violence.

But all that was a month ago. Last week was *quite* another matter: three manuscripts and a short story rejected; telephone, gas and electricity bills unpaid ...

The telephone call to the manager of the taxi company was quick and to the point.

"Look, I need some work."

"But you said ... "

"I know what I said, but I need the money."

"OK, then, sure ... if you think you're up to it. When do you want to start?"

"Tomorrow."

A little small-talk, a few pleasantries, and I put the phone down. I thought: just three weeks' work to pay the bills. Just *three* weeks, then *finish*. No weekend nights. Avoid the pubs. Quite straightforward, really — if I watch my back.

Photographs by
MITCH JENKINS

Garden revolution from Germany

Recurring plants, massed perennials and low maintenance are the keys to a radical new style of gardening

STEPHEN LACEY

Bright and beautiful: Westpark in all its summer glory

A revolutionary style of gardening may be coming to Britain from Germany — let us call it the New Planting. It is diametrically opposed to one of today's fashions which dictates that we concentrate our attention on the association between one plant and its immediate neighbours, and forget that a theme plant, something which recurs many times over a large area, can bring strength of character to a border.

Of course the immediate contrasts are important, and playing with them is the stuff of contemporary gardening. But recurring plants bring harmony, and a particular kind of relaxation to the scene. Do you not smile at a cottage garden where, for a time, every inch of soil under the rising perennials is a calm sea of self-sown forget-me-nots? Or at some fabulous high-summer border of roses and delphiniums, shot through from end to end with an accidental sub-text of tall yellow mulleins?

In Germany today, a new style of planting with massed perennials is emerging, in public gardens and garden festivals. At its heart is the theory that, given appropriate soil conditions, perennials can be naturalised on their own to form substainable plant communities, which can be maintained with minimal labour. In proof of the fascination for this new style of planting, an international one-day symposium was held at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, west London, last summer, bringing British and German gardeners and designers together to discuss the ideas involved. There was not an empty seat, to the great credit of the organisers, London landscape architects Tim Rees and Brita von Schoenaich.

The "new planting" stems in great part from the work of Professor Richard Hansen, in whose garden at Weihenstephan much of the theory has been tested and developed. Professor Hansen advocates not the manipulating of a site yard by yard to make the soil suitable for individual plants, but choosing groups of plants, whether exotic or native, which are suited to life in a particular soil type. In his book, *Perennials and Their Garden Habitats*, Professor Hansen divides gardens into a series of typical habitats: woodland, woodland edge, open ground, rock garden, border, water's edge, and water, and suggests plant communities for each.

It would be too easy to say that Professor Hansen is advocating wild gardening and the planting of perennials in rough grass where they can be left to get on with it. When you see the gardens made in the Hansen style, it is apparent that there is much more going on. These are schemes of naturalised perennials which do not arise like bright lights in a galaxy of grass and weeds, but band together to suppress weed vegetation, after the first year or two. The success of these perennials lies in their suitability to the soil.

There is a noticeable lack of woody plants interspersed among the schemes, which to many a British gardener might seem perversely restricted. But it is just this steppe or prairie-like quality which makes these plantings so different and attractive to British eyes. They roll spaciously across large open areas where we might have a lawn, a scree garden, a wildflower meadow or *maquis*, but these are taller, brighter, and with much more telling swathes of colour. And there are many theme plants, repeated widely, to emphasise the natural style. Frequently the theme will come from tall, clump-forming grasses such as Miscanthus. These may be chromatically discreet but they lend the substance of shrubs, their tall erect or arching forms standing even through the winter months, bleached in autumn and silvered by later frosts.

The question on everyone's lips at Kew was, 'What about the maintenance?' Do these low-maintenance schemes rely on a hot continental summer where weeds stop appearing for three months? When Professor Hansen writes: "In April the little white-flowered crucifer Cardamine *hirsuta* blooms in the rock garden and vanishes again by May", I wonder how he would explain why in my garden, given a chance, Cardamine *hirsuta* (hairy bitter cress) would smother everything under four inches for nine months out of 12?

During the symposium at Kew we learnt the importance of creating impoverished soils for the new plantings, with a mixture of much grit and gravel. This certainly restrains weed competition. We also heard about steam-sterilising whole tracts of garden, if necessary by removing the soil from site first. That would certainly offer a good weed-free start to a new planting of perennials.

But is this low maintenance? Steam sterilisation is an expensive operation involving large machines and rarely used here in commercial horticulture, let alone on a domestic scale. Perhaps in Germany ecologically correct operations are happily met as a capital cost, while long-term maintenance is less willingly funded. I suspect most British gardeners are quite happy to spend time in their own gardens coaxing individual plants to coexist. It can be a lot more fun than soil preparation for ecologically correct planting.

To convince British public authorities that the new plantings demand little maintenance will require a good deal of effort. It will also require a new kind of gardener, trained in keeping the peace between seedling weeds and seedling perennials, and with an eye for a natural effect. It will also require a second symposium, to spell out how it is done. British gardeners are keen enough to praise the variety of garden styles within the UK, but this is something different, a satisfactorily new style, and we ought to try it here.

STEPHEN ANDERTON

● Perennials and their Garden Habitats, *by Richard Hansen and Friedrich Stahl, was published in English by the Cambridge University Press in 1993, £35.*

● *One of the best ecologically based perennial schemes may be seen in Munich's Westpark, designed by Rosemarie Weisse. It was planted in 1983, as part of the National Garden Festival, and is looking as good as ever.*

Gardening, pages 10 and 11

SCHOENAICH REES

The scheme at Westpark in Munich was planted 12 years ago for the National Garden Festival. Here, in autumn, the dominant species are grasses and aster

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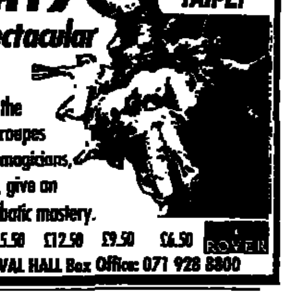

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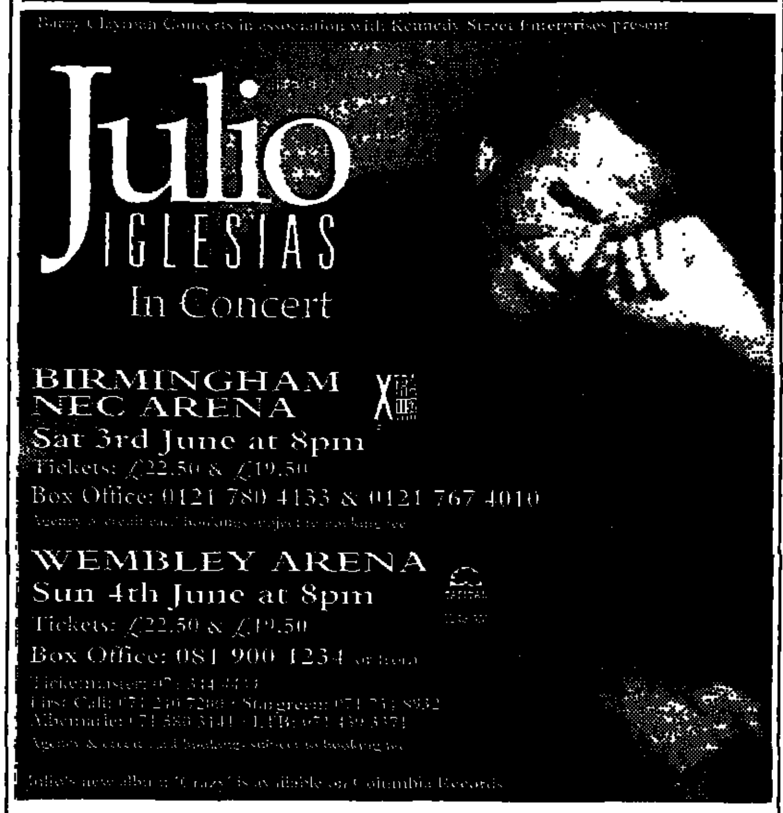

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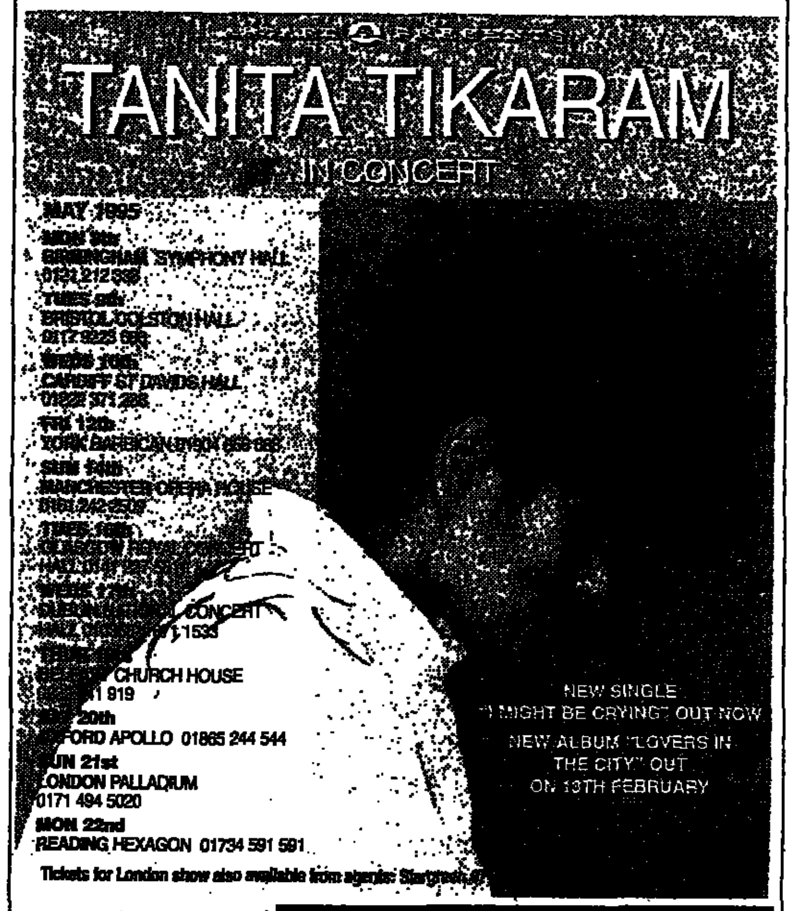

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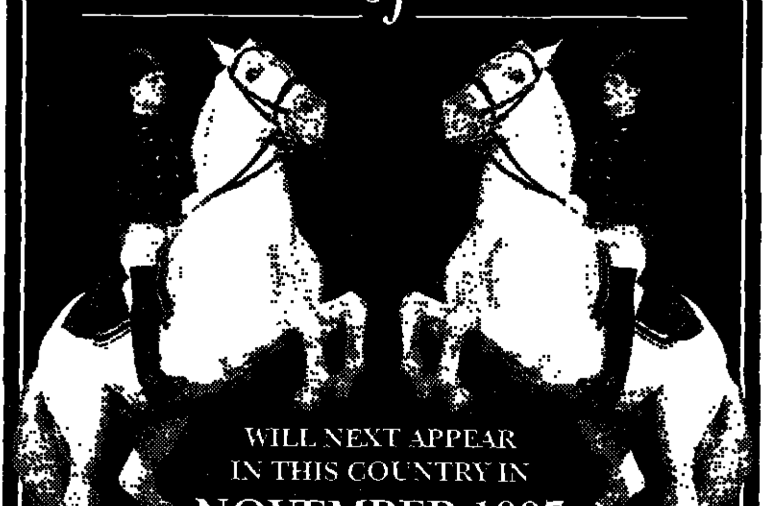

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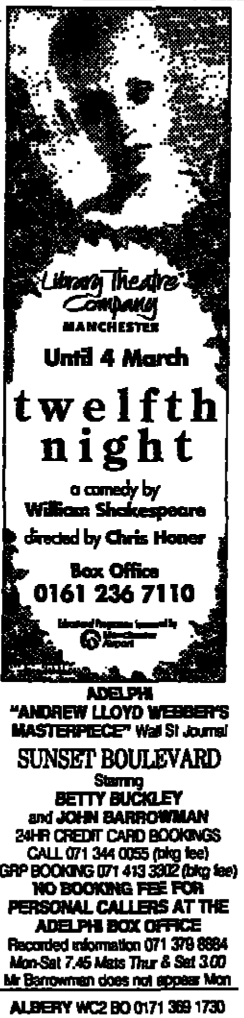

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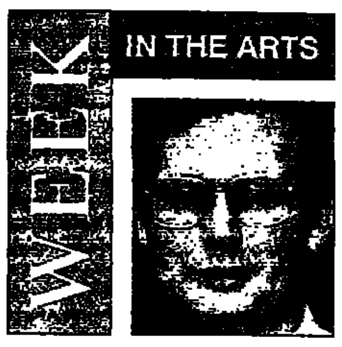
Roll up! The victim show is starting



RICHARD MORRISON

A small but splendidly vitriolic war has broken out in arty New York circles. On one side is Arleen Croce, veteran dance critic of *The New Yorker*, that journal of usually impeccable liberal leanings. On the other side, amusingly, is the entire liberal establishment of America.

Croce declared war in late December by refusing to review a work called *Still/Here* by the revered gay black choreographer Bill T. Jones because it included a video of people with Aids talking about themselves. "By working dying people into his act, Jones is putting himself beyond the reach of criticism," Croce wrote. "I think of him as literally undiscussable — the most extreme case among the distressingly many now representing themselves not as artists but as victims and martyrs."

Undiscussable or not, Croce then spent 3,000 words demolishing a work she had not seen. "Intolerably voyeuristic .... menace to all art forms ... blackmail" — you catch her drift.

Bill T. is himself HIV-positive, and has seen his partner and collaborator Arnie Zane die of Aids-related illnesses. In smart Manhattan one simply doesn't criticise such people's performances. But this was precisely Croce's point. "Victim art", she argued, blackmails its audience into suspending normal judgment.

To ensure that she offended just about the whole of the American entertainment world, Croce then widened her definition of "victim art" to include "these grisly high-minded movies like *Schindler's List* (showered with Oscars while Serbian genocide goes on and on)".

Well, yes. Mr Spielberg's acceptance speech at the Oscars was a bit too sanctimonious for my taste, too. But Croce's extraordinary rant has triggered a whole series of celebrity counterblasts. In *The New York Times*, Frank Rich put the boot in, while in *The New Yorker's* own columns Tony Kushner, author of *Angels in America*, took Croce's attack on "Aids epics" personally. As he was right to do, of course. He accused Croce of being (crime of crimes!) right-wing. "Gingrich's clarion call is emboldening his kindred everywhere, and a mighty braying is heard in the land," he wrote. A touch dramatic, perhaps; but then he is a dramatist.

Other correspondents damned Croce's "awesome flouting of privilege", or for writing "fiction". She was also called reactionary and ridiculous. The "cultural critic" Camille Paglia, never short of An Opinion, was even inspired to defend Bill T. Jones with the memorable observation: "In the Sixties dance escaped the theatre and revolutionised the world." Oh *absolutely*, Camille. At the Pentagon they worry about little else except Merce Cunningham.

In Britain, we don't generally get terribly steamed up about questions like "is it art?". Endless discussions about "who pays for it?" are more our style. Nevertheless, we have come near to debating the morality of "victim art" in the last year without knowing it. You may recall the flurry of controversy a few months ago when one or two theatre critics pointed out how many plays about Aids were being staged. It was, they maintained, too easy to win cheap applause from audiences that were intimidated into sympathy by the subject-matter. The fuss soon fizzled out.

Then Peter Howson's powerful Bosnia war paintings, and in particular the rape scene that made the Imperial War Museum authorities queasy, raised more questions about emotional manipulation and voyeurism in art.

The subject isn't going to disappear now. Indeed, British audiences will have a chance to judge Bill T. Jones's artistic merits for themselves this summer, when he stages *Still/Here* at the Edinburgh Festival. And yes, *The Times* critic will review it — if only because it would be a terrible waste of trees to print 3,000 words explaining why not.

Come to the cabaret, old chum! And make it quick, because it may not last much longer, judging from reports from Paris about the ailing fortunes of the Folies Bergères, Moulin Rouge and Lido. It seems that *divertissements* consisting of young ladies squeaking "oo-la-la!" and prancing around while balancing entire aviaries on their heads are considered a little *passé* by the adventurous business traveller of today. The can-can has become more of a no-no.

I do not want to sound like a dreadful old fogey, even though I am one. But it does seem to me that much-maligned, totally bogus cultural stereotypes like French cabaret are sources of harmless joy, and should be preserved wherever possible. What would Edinburgh be without that wailing piper in Princes Street to refresh the jaded nerves? What is the point of a Budapest café without a "gypsy" violinist to ruin all conversation until his palm is crossed with substantial amounts of silver? Or a Greek restaurant without bracing bursts of plate-smashing and Anthony Quinn impressions on the dance-floor?

Alas, the French cabaret bosses don't think like that. They are frantically bringing in video screens, holograms and all the other paraphernalia of our microchip age. Indeed, if Toulouse-Lautrec were alive today, he would probably find himself drawing posters of laser-beams. Which, in the opinion of several art critics whom I have consulted, would *not* be an improvement.

It's all grist to his Miller

From Tel Aviv to London, Arthur Miller's favourite director is making a splash, **Heather Neill** reports

David Thacker proudly produces a copy of the *Jerusalem Post*. It has a front-page story about a well-known British theatre director, one D. Thacker, who is abandoning his homeland for a new life in Israel. The British ambassador is quoted as regretting the loss to the National Theatre in London. It turns out to be a spoof: one of the Cameri Theatre of Tel Aviv, with whom Thacker has been working on Arthur Miller's latest play, *Broken Glass*, has a friend on the newspaper and he helped to provide a convincing mock-up. But the sentiments are real enough; members of the Cameri clearly wish their invention were true.

Broken Glass has particular resonances in Israel. Set in 1938 just after *Kristallnacht*, it draws parallels between the sudden physical paralysis of a woman, Sylvia, and the passivity of the watching world as the Nazis persecute Jews. It has been playing to packed houses in Tel Aviv since December. Meanwhile, the National Theatre production, also directed by Thacker, transfers to the West End later this month before touring the country.

It was immediately after he had seen this production last summer that the director of the Cameri Theatre phoned from Waterloo to tell his administration to get the rights. Miller himself suggested that they keep the same director. Since early January, Thacker has been directing a much earlier Miller play, *A View from the Bridge*, which opens this week in Bristol.

The close understanding between playwright and director has been well documented. Since the mid-1980s, Miller has been consulted by Thacker about productions of his version of *An Enemy of the People*, the double bill with *Two-Way Mirror*, *The Price* and *The Last Yankee*. On several occasions Miller attended rehearsals and offered hints about characterisation.

The result is that Thacker had some influence on the final version of *Broken Glass*. Halfway through the London rehearsals, he visited Miller in New York and saw the American production. "By the end of two weeks I was clear that a number of things needed changing. The end wasn't right because Sylvia's 'journey' wasn't clear enough. Besides, in Ibsen, Chekhov and Arthur Miller in the rest of his work, no part is a small part, people don't fade in and out. But Harriet, Sylvia's sister, in particular, faded out. We needed a new scene between the three women — Sylvia, Harriet and Margaret, the doctor's wife."

> ‘In Miller, no part is a small part’

Miller pondered this over the weekend in Connecticut, where they worked on the text together in some detail. "As I left, he said he thought he knew what to do with the scene. Two days later a fax arrived."

The Miller/Thacker relationship first found expression at the Young Vic, the small south London theatre where Thacker was artistic director between 1984 and 1993. Much as he enjoyed that period, memorable for such successes as Vanessa Redgrave in *Ghosts* and Natasha Richardson in *Anna Christie*, he is still relishing the freedom from financial worry that working for the National Theatre or the RSC (where he has been director in residence since 1993) affords him. "Two mistakes in a row and you knew the theatre might close."

MARC ASPLAND

Curtain call: Thacker insists that he has no plans to offer himself for Richard Eyre's job at the National Theatre

A View from the Bridge was put on at the Young Vic early in his tenure but, because of other commitments, he was not free to direct it himself. It was the first play by Miller he had seen as a young director in York in the mid-1970s and he was stunned by the qualities which he continues to find in his work.

"They are emotionally powerful plays with strong narratives, psychologically intense and politically powerful. And they are language plays. I'd never encountered a modern play like this before. So directing it is unfinished business," Thacker says.

Miller, now almost 80, is said to be engaged in writing yet another play which will, no doubt, lead to further collaboration with his favourite director. But Thacker's career is taking other directions, too. At the end of last year, the BBC repeated his prize-winning production of *A Doll's House* and, in November, showed *Measure for Measure*, with Juliet Aubrey and Tom Wilkinson, perhaps the most gripping Shakespeare seen on television to date.

Next season at the RSC (where he has already had considerable success with *Pericles*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Coriolanus* and others) Thacker will fulfil another ambition, directing touring productions of *The Tempest* and Edward Bond's related play *Bingo* in tandem.

For all the plaudits, the reception of one piece of work still rankles. Just over a year ago, Thacker returned to the Young Vic to direct a musical by Pete Townshend based on Ted Hughes's fable *The Iron Man*. There were problems — for one thing, the show was not quite ready on the first night. Children loved it but the critics were unimpressed. "It is one of the most underrated pieces of work I've been involved in," Thacker says.

He dreams of staging it in Israel where he believes that the reconciliation between the two giants, the Iron Man and Space-Bat-Angel-Dragon, would be a perfect metaphor for the peace process.

But for the moment Thacker is in Britain. Will he throw his hat into the ring as a contender for Richard Eyre's job at the National? He says no, that he likes to lead, but he wants to concentrate more on other things — in particular being a father to his four small children. And with his wife Margot Leicester about to tour as Sylvia in *Broken Glass*, he may well have his hands full for the foreseeable future.

● A View from the Bridge *is in previews at the Bristol Old Vic (0117 9877877) and opens on Tuesday. It opens at the Birmingham Rep (0121-236 4455) on March 8.* Broken Glass *opens at London's Duke of York's Theatre (0171-836 5122) on February 24.*

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

RACHEL WEISZ

Profession: Actress

Age: 24

On the cards: Weisz recently riveted the critics with her sexy, witty Gilda in Coward's *Design For Living* at the Donmar. She is currently re-rehearsing the show with director Sean Mathias for its transfer to the Gielgud Theatre, opening on February 20. She also plays a "nightmare older sister" in the Channel 4 film *Seventeen*, soon to be released as a cinema short.

Her theatrical history: Avant-garde and untrained. She studied English at Cambridge, where she formed the improvisational company Talking Tongues with actress Sasha Hails and director David Farr. They caused annual stirs at the Edinburgh Festival, winning the *Guardian* Fringe Award in 1991. Post-college opportunities caused rifts. Weisz began a television career in the costume drama *Scarlet and Black*. But Talking Tongues has recently returned, creating a devised piece on French courtesans at the National Theatre Studio, a show now looking for a London run.

The family scene: Child of a Hungarian medical inventor — "anything to do with lungs" — and an Austrian psychotherapist.

Schooling: North London Collegiate and St Paul's.

Teenage tabloid shocker: She made headlines at 13, when she was picked out by talent scouts to be in a Richard Gere movie. She turned down the part. Or at least her mother turned it down on her behalf, apparently at her father's insistence. The tabloids were traumatised. Weisz wishes the press would finally get over it.

Glam girl: At about the same time, she started modelling "to earn pocket money in the holidays". She was in *Harpers* and *Vogue*, and appeared on the cover of *ID* when she was 17.

Her ambitions today: Apart from working with Mike Leigh, "lots of theatre. The classics: Tennessee Williams, Shakespeare. I'd like to end up at the RSC."

Which roles? "Isabella in *Measure for Measure*. Cleopatra when I'm older."

Which directors? "Max Stafford-Clark and Terry Hands."

On herself: "I've got a very strong work ethic. I think I'm very loyal. And I'm obsessional: I get overwhelming crushes, passions for things that are all consuming."

On her work: "I work instinctively. I imagine they teach you ways of approaching a work at drama school. I have no method or received idea about how to do anything, so I'm always right in at the deep end, which uses up an enormous amount of energy. If I've been working, I'm blank by the end of the day."

KATE BASSETT

THEATRES

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THE SUNDAY TIMES
The last modernist
‘Silence attends Willem de Kooning now. Just as it should. It is more than 40 years since de Kooning, Jackson Pollock and a bunch of brawling New York artists were jubilantly elected to take over the art world from the fagged-out Paris School.
De Kooning alone survives. Still striking-looking, he remains in the roomy studio-cum-living quarters at Springs, a township on Long Island. He can look out from his property, but it is hard for the inquisitive to look in . . .’
Anthony Haden-Guest appraises the life and work of Willem de Kooning, the last of the abstract expressionists, on the eve of a British retrospective — in The Magazine, The Sunday Times tomorrow

ARTS

WEST END ENTERTAINMENT

■ **AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'**: The Fats Waller musical show: an evening of stomping, tapping, exuberant song and dance
Tricycle, Kilburn High Rd, NW6 (0171-328 1000). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Sat 4pm. Returns in person at the box office from 7pm only: until Feb 25 ♿

◩ **AS YOU LIKE IT**. Cheek by Jowl's all-male Shakespeare, spare, inventive, endearingly funny, with Adrian Lester a ravishing Rosalind.
Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm. Until Feb 11

◩ **THE CHILDREN'S HOUR** Clare Higgins and Harriet Walter as two schoolteachers accused of being lovers by a brat student Lilian Hellman's powerful drama from 1934, directed by Howard Davies
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252) Today, 2.15 and 7.30pm ♿

☐ **CINDERELLA** Lindsay Kemp's fascinating reworking of the tale, subtitled "A Gothic Operetta" and set in a jungle palace choking on its own decadence Superb music by Carlos Miranda.
Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, EC1 (0171-713 6000) Today, 4pm and 8pm ♿

☐ **THE CLANDESTINE MARRIAGE**. Nigel Hawthorne plays the dilapidated Lord Ogleby and directs a strong cast in this good-hearted comedy about 18th-century greed, snobbery and true love.
Queens, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5041) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Sat, 2.30pm

◩ **THE DANCE OF DEATH**: Strindberg's impassioned, sometimes comic, view of marriage as hell. Subtle characterisation by Gemma Jones and John Neville.
Almeida, Almeida St, N1 (0171-359 4404) Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm. ♿

☐ **DANGEROUS CORNER**: Keith Baxter directs an excellent cast in Priestley's psychological thriller about the grey areas in people's lives it is wiser not to probe into
Whitehall, Whitehall, SW1 (0171-369 1735). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed 3pm and Sat 5pm. Until Mar 11.

☐ **THE LIBERTINE**. Stephen Jeffreys's excellent portrait of the life and times of the rakehell Earl of Rochester. In repertoire with *The Man of Mode* Max Stafford-Clark directs.
Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (0171-730 1745) Tonight, 7.30pm

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◩ **Some seats available**
☐ **Seats at all prices**

☐ **THE LIVE BED SHOW**. Arthur Smith's revised version of his 1989 Edinburgh Festival comedy: Caroline Quentin and Paul Merton play a couple on their journey towards sharing a bed.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085) Now previewing, 8pm. Opens Feb 7.

☐ **MAMA I WANT TO SING** The longest-running Off-Broadway black musical, based on the life of the Harlem singer Doris Troy (who here plays her own mother). Cast includes the charismatic Chaka Khan.
Cambridge, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-494 5080). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Tue and Sat, 3pm. Until Apr 8.

☐ **NEW ENGLAND**. Richard Nelson looks at the English abroad, behaving just as Americans say we do. Interesting ideas and good acting led by Angela Thorne, David Burke and Mick Ford
Pit, Barbican Centre EC2 (0171-638 8891) Today, 2pm and 7.15pm. ♿

◩ **ROMEO AND JULIET**: Inventive performance artist Emily Woof, in her first classical role, plays Juliet opposite Stuart Bunce's Romeo. Neil Bartlett directs the co-production with West Yorkshire Playhouse
Lyric, King St, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2311). Now previewing, 7.30pm, opens Feb 7. ♿

◩ **SAVANNAH BAY** Marguerite Duras's 1982 play for two women haunted by their past. Directed by Katrin Magrowitz for the always adventurous Koncrete Theatre Co. The last company to play this venue before it closes down
New Grove, Drummonds, Euston Road, NW1 (0171-383 0925). Mon-Sat, 8pm. Until Feb 25

☐ **THE THREE LIVES OF LUCIE CABROL**: Award-winning performance from Lilo Baur in Simon McBurney's thrilling production on the loves and anguish of peasant life. Theatre de Complicite begin an international tour here
Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-379 5399) Mon-Fri, 7.30pm; Sat, 8pm; mats Sat, 2.30pm ♿

■ **THE THREEPENNY OPERA**: Phyllida Lloyd's splendidly inventive revival of Kurt Weill's opera. Tom Hollander sings Macheath and words by the team of writers customarily known as "Bertolt Brecht".
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham St, WC2 (0171-369 1732) Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. ♿

■ **THE YIDDISH TROJAN WOMEN**. Maria Charles plays the forgetful, memory-full grandmother in a strong Brooklyn drama, now comic, now tragic, about looking away from bad things
Cockpit, Gateforth St, NW8 (0171-402 5081). Tue-Sun, 8pm, mat Sun, 4pm. ♿

■ **ZORRO — THE MUSICAL**. Andy Garcia twirls his cape as the masked swashbuckler of comics legend in Ken Hill's latest (and sadly last) musical romp Sylvester McCoy also in the cast.
Theatre Royal, Gerry Raffles Square, Stratford, E15 (0181-534 0310) Previews begin tomorrow, 8pm Opens Feb 14 ♿

LONG RUNNERS

◩ **Arcadia**: Haymarket (0171-930 8800) . . ◩ **Blood Brothers**. Phoenix (0171-867 1044) . . . ◩ **Buddy**. Victoria Palace (0171-834 1317) . ■ **Cats**. New London (0171-405 0072) . . ☐ **Copacabana**: Prince of Wales (0171-839 5972) . . . ☐ **Crazy for You**: Prince Edward (0171-734 8951) ◩ **Don't Dress for Dinner**: Duchess (0171-494 5070) . . . ☐ **Five Guys Named Moe** Lyric (0171-494 5045) . . ■ **Grease**: Dominion (0171-416 6060) . . . ☐ **Hamlet**: Gielgud (0171-494 5065) ■ **Les Misérables**: Palace (0171-434 0909) . . . ■ **Miss Saigon**. Theatre Royal (0171-494 5400) . . . ☐ **The Mousetrap**: St Martin's (0171-836 1443) . ◩ **My Night With Reg**: Criterion (0171-839 4488) . ☐ **Neville's Island**. Apollo (0171-494 5070) . . . ■ **Oliver!**: Palladium (0171-494 5020) . . ☐ **On Approval**: Playhouse (0171-839 4401) . . ☐ **Only the Lonely**: Piccadilly (0171-369 1734) . . ◩ **A Passionate Woman**: Comedy (0171-369 1731) . . ☐ **The Queen and I**: Vaudeville (0171-836 9987) . . . ■ **The Phantom of the Opera**: Her Majesty's (0171-494 5400) ☐ **She Loves Me**. Savoy (0171-836 8888) . . . ◩ **The Sisters Rosensweig**: Old Vic (0171-928 7616) ◩ **Starlight Express**. Apollo Victoria (0171-828 8665) . . . ■ **Sunset Boulevard**: Adelphi (0171-344 0055) ■ **Three Tall Women**: Wyndhams (0171-369 1736) . . . ◩ **Woman in Black**: Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

NEW RELEASES

I LIKE IT LIKE THAT (15): Cheerful drama of Bronx family life from debuting director Darnell Martin, with Lauren Vélez and Jon Seda.
MGMs: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) **Tottenham Court Road** (071-636 6148) **Trocadero** ♿ (071-434 0031)

LEON (18): See Critics' Choice, page 2

◆ **THE ROAD TO WELLVILLE** (18): Frolics and chicanery at a turn-of-the-century sanitarium Overdone health food satire, with Anthony Hopkins, Bridget Fonda, Matthew Broderick Director, Alan Parker
Barbican ♿ (0171-638 8891) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (01426 915683) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

STRAW DOGS (18) Revival of Sam Peckinpah's notorious rural horror film, filmed in England with Dustin Hoffman and Susan George It still bites
NFT (071-928 3232)

CURRENT

THE ADVENTURES OF PRISCILLA, QUEEN OF THE DESERT (15) Two drag queens and a transsexual get stuck in the Australian outback. Joyful and vulgar romp with Terence Stamp and Hugo Weaving
Electric, today only ♿ (0171-792 2020) **MGM Piccadilly** (0171-437 3561) **Odeon Mezzanine** ♿ (01426 915683) **Plaza** (0800 888997)

BARCELONA (12) Whit Stillman's successor to *Metropolitan*, an agreeable blend of romance, politics and disco dancing set during the early 1980s With Taylor Nichols and Chris Eigeman.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426-915353) **Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098)

DEAR DIARY (15): Delightful, freewheeling film journal from Italian actor-director Nanni Moretti
Metro (0171-437 0757)

EAT DRINK MAN WOMAN (PG) Delectable mosaic of Taipei family life from the director of *The Wedding Banquet*, Ang Lee.
Chelsea (0171-351 3742) **Curzon West End** (0171-369 1722) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402)

EVEN COWGIRLS GET THE BLUES (15): Unwieldy version of Tom Robbins's zany novel from cult director Gus Van Sant. Uma Thurman heads a cameo-strewn cast
MGM Piccadilly (0171-437 3561)

FOUR WEDDINGS AND A FUNERAL (15): Mike Newell's smart social comedy with Hugh Grant and Andie MacDowell
Odeon Mezzanine ♿ (01426 915683) **Plaza** (0800 888997) **Prince Charles**, today only (0171-437 8181)

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

◆ **INTERVIEW WITH THE VAMPIRE** (18) Tom Cruise shows Brad Pitt the vampire way of life Dull, over-stuffed version of Anne Rice's book
Barbican ♿ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Notting Hill Coronet** ♿ (0171-727 6705) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **JUNIOR** (PG) Juvenile jokes abound as Arnold Schwarzenegger gets pregnant With Emma Thompson and Danny DeVito Director, Ivan Reitman
Empire (0800-888 911) **MGM Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

THE LAST SEDUCTION (18). Enjoyably amoral tale of sex, power and $700,000, with Linda Fiorentino as the femme fatale to end them all Director, John Dahl
Metro (0171-437 0757) **MGM Piccadilly**, today only (0171-437 3561) **Phoenix**, Sun only (0181-883 2233)

◆ **THE LION KING** (U) African lion cub almost loses his father's throne Much hyped but charmless Disney cartoon, not meant for tiny tots.
Barbican, today only ♿ (0171-638 8891) **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Mezzanine** ♿ (01426 915683) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

THE MASK (PG): Strange mask turns mild bank employee into a wisecracking demon Inventive vehicle for rubber-faced Jim Carrey, filled with the antic spirit of 1940s cartoons.
Odeon Mezzanine ♿ (01426 915683) **NFT** (0171-928 3232)

NOSTRADAMUS (15) Life and prophecies of the 16th-century legend Preposterous Euro-pudding, with Tcheky Karyo and Amanda Plummer.
Odeon Mezzanine ♿ (01426 915683)

◆ **ONLY YOU** (PG) Marisa Tomei chases the man of her dreams through Italy Lazy blend of comedy, romance and travelogue, with Robert Downey Jr Director, Norman Jewison
MGM Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426-915 574) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **PRINCESS CARABOO** (PG). Airy, amusing historical diversion, with Phoebe Cates as the mysterious girl believed to be a Far Eastern princess. With Jim Broadbent, John Lithgow, Stephen Rea and Wendy Hughes
MGM Trocadero ♿ (0171-434 0031)

◆ **PULP FICTION** (18): Quentin Tarantino's flamboyant crime epic weaves together three tales from the LA underworld With John Travolta, Bruce Willis and Samuel L. Jackson.
MGMs: Fulham Road ♿ (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279) **NFT** ♿ (0171-928 3232) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

LA REINE MARGOT (18): Bloody, brooding, occasionally impressive French history lesson, with Isabelle Adjani and Daniel Auteuil. Director, Patrice Chéreau
Curzon Mayfair (0171-369 1720) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426-914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098)

◆ **SHALLOW GRAVE** (18). Danny Boyle's wickedly enjoyable comedy-thriller about three Edinburgh chums and a corpse loaded with money.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Gate** ♿ (0171-727 4043) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **THE SPECIALIST** (15): Sharon Stone hires explosives expert Sylvester Stallone to avenge her parents' murder. Empty concoction that wastes its stars. With James Woods, Eric Roberts, Rod Steiger. Director, Luis Llosa.
MGM Trocadero ♿ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **STARGATE** (PG): Galactic *adventures of Kurt Russell and James* Spader. Preposterous, derivative but fun; Roland Emmerich directs.
MGMs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Mezzanine** ♿ (01426 915683) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

SUTURE: Hypnotic melodrama with avant-garde trimmings from new American film-makers Scott McGehee and David Siegel.
Everyman ♿ (0171-435 1525) **ICA** ♿ (0171-930 3647)

VANYA ON 42ND STREET (U): Absorbing film of Andre Gregory's treatment of *"Uncle Vanya"*, caught in rehearsal by Louis Malle's cameras at a decrepit New York theatre. Wallace Shawn, Julianne Moore, Brooke Smith and George Gaynes head the fine cast.
Curzon Phoenix (0171-369 1721) **Screen/Hill** ♿ (0171-435 3366)

NEW ON VIDEO: Polite society in New York; rude awakenings in Dickens's London

■ **THE AGE OF INNOCENCE**
Columbia TriStar, U, 1993
PREVIOUSLY available to rent; but now you can buy Martin Scorsese's spellbinding, heartfelt version of Edith Wharton's novel about turn-of-the-century New York at a reasonable price. Daniel Day-Lewis plays the lawyer bound for a safe marriage with Winona Ryder, until the bewitching, unorthodox Michelle Pfeiffer arrives from Europe. Scorsese's camera glides and caresses, uncovering hidden depths in the slightest of social gestures.

■ **LES DIABOLIQUES**
Arrow, 18, 1954
"I PRODUCED it as I would play a game," director Henri-Georges Clouzot told a journalist, and it is a game many others have copied over the years. Yet the tale of a wife (Vera Clouzot) and mistress (Simone Signoret) plotting a sadistic headmaster's murder still packs a special punch. The shocks are skilful, but the atmospheric details linger the most: the dismal school meals, the swimming-pool scum, the ornamental lion pressed on the chest to encourage drowning.

■ **THE GOOD FATHER**
First Independent, 15, 1986
MIKE Newell was not yet the toast of the world when he made this film from Peter Prince's novel about fathers fighting for child custody. But he was still a good director, alive to the prickly issues and social nuances of middle-class London life embedded in Christopher Hampton's script. The notable cast includes Anthony Hopkins, Jim Broadbent and Simon Callow. Time for a reassessment.

■ **LANCELOT DU LAC**
Artificial Eye, PG, 1974
ROBERT Bresson's masterly film strips bare the Arthurian legend to reveal the cruelty, loneliness and desperation hidden underneath the picture-book surface. As always, the director's rigorous approach demands a patient viewer: get in synch, and his spare, fragmentary shots will stir the heart in a manner impossible with most directors of the slam-bang style. The cast is headed by Luc Simon and Laura Duke Condominas: unknown performers then, and still unknown now.

■ **MARTIN CHUZZLEWIT**
BBC, U, 1994
NO SOONER is the BBC's Dickens dramatisation off our screens than it bounces into the shops in a double video pack that runs for 337 minutes and takes up more shelf space than the novel itself. Dickens's tale of greed and hypocrisy is brilliantly transferred from page to screen; and Paul Scofield, as the Chuzzlewit whose promised inheritance brings out the worst in his fellow men, gives an object lesson in clean and precise character acting.

■ **PUBLIC ACCESS**
Imagine Home Entertainment, 18, 1993
BRYAN J. Singer's debut feature, available to rent, contains wisps of ideas about American society and media manipulation, though they never find proper form. As compensation, he creates a strongly disquieting atmosphere and secures a charismatic performance from Ron Marquette as the eerie stranger who takes control of a phone-in television show and encourages citizens to spill the beans about their small, clean town. File under "flawed but promising".

■ **SEASON OF THE WITCH**
Redemption, 18, 1972
GEORGE A. Romero earned his place in the horror books with the marching zombies of his first movie, *Night of the Living Dead*. This little-known film, also known as *Hungry Wives* and *Jack's Wife*, forgoes blood and gore for an edgy, fascinating depiction of a restless housewife (Jan White) who never looks back after reading a book called *To Be a Witch — A Primer*.

GEOFF BROWN

Mind your manners: Winona Ryder and Miriam Margolyes in *Age of Innocence*

Take a whirl in virtual Vienna

If you cannot get to *Der Rosenkavalier* at Covent Garden, put it on the box

Deutsche Grammophon's *Rosenkavalier*, filmed live at the Vienna State Opera last March, offers a substantial taste of the performances of Strauss's comedy at Covent Garden throughout this month. Tonight, Vienna and the Royal Opera share the three leading ladies: Felicity Lott (the Marschallin), Anne Sofie von Otter (Octavian) and Barbara Bonney (Sophie), a winning combination if ever there was one. Later in February, when casts change, Vienna's Kurt Moll arrives to sing Baron Ochs. The only main element the Garden cannot offer is Carlos Kleiber — though probably not through want of trying.

The Vienna production is by Otto Schenk. It grew from a famous staging made for Munich, which was also filmed by Unitel and put on LaserDisc with the reigning trio of the day, Gwyneth Jones, Fassbaender and Popp. Kleiber again was in the pit. For Vienna, Schenk cut some of the glass and glitter, including the chandelier in Herr von Faninal's mansion, which the cynics claimed cost more than the annual subsidy of a small opera house. But he stayed with baroque and emphasised even more the feeling of *alt Wien*. Nowhere is it more evident than in the Gasthaus of Ochs's rendezvous, with its low ceilings, tunnels and alcoves: it is a drinking den from one of the seedier parts of the city. Schenk knows his Vienna inside out and remains faithful to every letter of Hofmannsthal's text.

Felicity Lott's Marschallin now takes its place among the great interpretations. At the start she is feline, almost kittenish in her sensual pleasure. But the Marschallin's greater concern is with transience. With soft-breathed phrases, shrouded in melancholy, Lott suggests that time is passing — and not just in the middle of the night. At the close of Act I her face seems to age visibly under the camera's scrutiny. In Act III the poise has returned. She leads off the trio gloriously and with a half swivel of the head acknowledges that another chapter is closed.

OPERA ON VIDEO

Anne Sofie von Otter's Octavian is her equal, intent too on showing every face of the character. In the bedroom the Count is bright-eyed and bushy-wigged, but Otter is careful to maintain an aura of well-bred arrogance, with more than a hint of selfishness. Octavian, with his ramrod posture at Silver Rose presentation time, has all the makings of a fine hussar and later, perhaps, a stuffy diplomat. Von Otter has enough fun as a toothy "Mariandel" to make one wonder why she has sung so few comedy roles on stage. But it is as the lover she excels.

Barbara Bonney sounds a shade shrill at times in the latter role, but she shows a bit more spirit than most Sophies. Kurt Moll is right in the grand tradition of Viennese Ochses, hellbent on the delights of the flesh and the cellar, with a little music, preferably in waltz time, thrown in.

The State Opera's supporting cast oozes experience. Gottfried Hornik's Faninal begins as a mole-like creature, but there is enough glint behind his spectacles to suggest that he had no trouble in amassing the wealth to build himself a nice palace and marry his daughter off into the aristocracy. Heinz Zednik's Valzacchi is a Roman rotter and the veteran tenor Waldemar Kmentt makes a brief appearance as the *Marschallin's* major-domo. Only the Italian Tenor could have done with classier casting.

The cameras may not make the most of the two great entrances in *Rosenkavalier*, Octavian's in Act II and that of the Marschallin in Act III. But all credit to them for cutting to Carlos Kleiber in the pit at the moment of Ochs's final humiliation. Kleiber clearly enjoyed that as he seems to enjoy everything in Strauss's opera. The touch is feather-light in the waltzes and shimmering when passion is in the air. Following the deaths of Karajan and Böhm, Kleiber is now the master of the Rose.

Both video and LaserDisc come with a synopsis rather than a libretto; the disc promises subtitles on teletext to those with the right equipment.

JOHN HIGGINS

● Der Rosenkavalier, *Deutsche Grammophon VHS 072 443-3 (2 tapes), LaserDisc 072 443-1 (2 discs)*

Theatre, opera, musicals, museums: how many of London's arts centres can you visit in a day? Find out on February 18

The world of arts in a day

THE TIMES
THE THEATRE CLUB

MOST people who have been to a show have wanted to go backstage. On February 18 Theatre Club members will get their chance when, as part of the London Arts Season, arts organisations will open their doors to the public. Among the attractions are workshops conducted by English National Ballet and the Unicorn Theatre. There are also tours of the London Coliseum (with the chance to buy reduced-price tickets for English National Opera's production of *Rigoletto*) and the New London Theatre, home of the musical *Cats*, where members will be able to meet leading lights of the *Cats* team.

Also taking part in the open day are the Theatre Museum, the Royal Academy of Arts (where club members can visit the rarely seen private rooms) and the Photographer's Gallery. There will also be the chance to try on the armour and handle the weapons housed in the Wallace Collection.

All this is available for just £5 per person (or £12 for a family of four). For full details, telephone 0171-814 5088 and ask for the Open House leaflet. Tickets must be booked in advance

Take a look at the world through the visor of a centuries-old suit of armour at the Wallace Collection — see first item

This week's special offers

LONDON
Bush Theatre
Feb 15-Mar 18
● EWEN BREMNER and Katrin Cartlidge star in *The Present*, written and directed by Nick Ward. Theatre Club members can buy tickets for £6 (normally £9.50). Tel 0181-743 3388

PERTH
Perth Theatre
Feb 20-25
● THE Victorian thriller *The Late Edwina Black*, by William Dinner and William Morum, has enough twists to keep you guessing until the final curtain. Club members can save 20 per cent on top-price tickets (normally £11). Tel 01738 624576

MUSSELBURGH
Brunton Theatre
Feb 21-23
● RAYMOND ROSS'S *The King of Witches* chronicles the mysterious events that surrounded the enigmatic James I (James VI of Scotland). Members can buy two tickets for the price of one (normally £7.50). Tel 0131-665 2240

HARROGATE
Harrogate Theatre
Feb 17
● SHARP, shocking, side-splittingly funny: *Bouncers*, John Godber's hilarious parody of modern urban night-life, is a celebratory — and cautionary — tale of British youth at play. Members can buy two stalls or circle tickets for the price of one (normally £10 and £11.50). Tel 01423 502116

MANCHESTER
Contact Theatre
Feb 6-11
● IN *Criminals in Love*, by the Canadian writer George F. Walker, two young lovers find themselves propelled into a ludicrous world of sinister threats and the explosive reality of bombs. The future is bleak, the humour black, but hope never dies. Club members can buy two tickets for the price of one (normally £8 and £9). Tel 0161-274 4400

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Playhouse
Feb 21-23
● MARK CLEMENTS directs, and Russell Dixon takes the lead role in *Richard III*, Shakespeare's story of evil political ambition. Club members can buy two tickets for the price of one (normally £10). Tel 01332 363275

EPSOM
Playhouse
Feb 8-11
● A TALE of desire and retribution set in the South Seas during the 19th century, *The Bottle Imp* is an epic story of love between two people struggling to overcome great odds, drawn from the vivid imagination of Robert Louis Stevenson. Members can buy tickets for £8 (normally £10). Tel 01372 742555

BRIGHTON
Theatre Royal
Feb 14-18
● SOAR high above the rooftops with Peter, Tinkerbell and the Darling children on a magical journey to Never Never Land in *Peter Pan — The British Musical*, starring Terence Donovan and Nicola Stapleton. Tickets £9 (normally £17.50). Tel 01273 28488

MILFORD HAVEN
Torch Theatre
Feb 14-18
● JUST after the war, Ensa officials in Cairo paired Tommy Cooper with the cheery metal worker and small-time entertainer Frankie Lyons. The story of this short-lived, ill-fated comedy duo is told in *Franky and Tommy*, by Garry Lyons. Theatre Club members can buy tickets for £4.50 (normally £7.50). Tel 01646 695267

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ARTS

RECORDINGS: dEUS come out best from another worst-case scenario; Korngold receives his long-awaited due; Solti tackles the creation

POP SINGLES

David Sinclair

■ DEUS
"Hotellounge (Be The Death Of Me)"
Bang!/Island 854 190★★★
It is not often we have cause to celebrate the contribution of Belgium to the rich tapestry of rock'n'roll, but dEUS, the typographically-challenged band from Antwerp, are clearly the exception which proves the rule.

Lifted from their widely-acclaimed album, *Worst Case Scenario*, "Hotellounge (Be The Death Of Me)" is a slow, spooky evocation of road sickness which combines a melancholy, descending bass line with lots of strange guitar effects that swirl around the vocal to produce a mood of utter desolation. It is stark, sad and strangely irresistible.

POP ALBUMS

David Sinclair

■ VARIOUS ARTISTS
Beat The Retreat — Songs by Richard Thompson
Capitol 7243 8 31482★★
WITH the release of *Beat The Retreat*, which features an impossibly varied roster of artists performing songs written by Richard Thompson, the mystery of who exactly these "tribute" albums are being aimed at deepens.

Admirers of Thompson will doubtless be curious to hear what Bonnie Raitt makes of "When The Spell Is Broken" or how Los Lobos tackle "Down Where The Drunkards Roll". And fans of R.E.M., for instance, will certainly want to hear their heroes' version of "Wall Of Death", the album's flagship track.

But the plot starts to get a bit tangled when English folk singer June Tabor's straight-laced version of "Genesis Hall" gives way to Dinosaur Jr's thunderous rendition of "I Misunderstood". And whether or not aficionados of folk troubadours Maddy Prior and Martin Carthy will find their delicate acoustic renderings of "Farewell, Farewell" and "The Great Valerio" provide a sufficient incentive to brave the turbo-charged version of "Turning Of The Tide" supplied by grunge godfather Bob Mould is open to doubt.

In any case, none of them can hold a candle to Thompson's own, uniquely spellbinding delivery of these songs. Of the singers, it is Mould who, surprisingly, comes closest to matching the master's dark, disdainful tone, while most of the guitarists (the sensible ones, anyway) do not even try to compete.

Antwerp's finest: dEUS, five more Belgians on the elusive road to fame, conjure up a spooky evocation of road sickness with "Hotellounge"

JAZZ

Clive Davis

■ JACKY TERRASSON
Jacky Terrasson
Blue Note CDP-8293512★★★
JUST as every short story coming out of America seems to begin with a Raymond Carver-ish line about going to the fridge for a six-pack, so jazz recordings by young guns all tend to start in a uniform style: a splashy bop figure played over a frenetic beat with just enough clever-clever rhythmic displacement to remind us that this is 1995, not 52nd Street.

It is a sign of Jacky Terrasson's self-confidence that he goes about things in an utterly different way, announcing his arrival with a thunderous bass chord which rolls ominously across Leon Parker's relaxed, funky drums.

An enigmatic trickle of notes and staccato chords follows before the first vague outline of "I Love Paris" begins to emerge. Terrasson then puts the familiar melody through a set of precise, calligraphic variations, momentarily pausing to explore a caressing ballad tempo. Like all truly original players, he leaves his imprint on the song before he even begins to unfurl the whole of his improvisation.

Of Franco-American parentage, he took formal studies in Paris before entering the Berklee School of Music and working the clubs in New York. Stints with Arthur Taylor and Betty Carter (who has always been a wonderful talent-spotter) aroused plenty of admiring comments but nobody, I suspect, could have hoped that he would come up with such an accomplished debut.

He has obviously thought long and hard about structure, yet without compromising the emotional content of the songs. Yes, he can swing as feverishly as any of his peers when the mood takes him (as it does on "Bye Bye Blackbird" and "For Once In My Life"). But the abiding impression is of his elastic sense of time, varied dynamics and his subtle use of space — as subtle as Ahmad Jamal's in his prime, but with more muscle under the surface.

Though most of the tunes are standards, all are given remarkably fresh readings. Terrasson's slow waltz "Hommage à Lili Boulanger" forms a reflective interlude, and despite its throwaway title, the sensuous "Just A Blues" is anything but disposable.

If you hear a better piano album this year, or the next, count yourself extremely lucky.

Terrasson: elastic timing

□ GRP ALL-STAR BIG BAND
All Blues
GRP Records 98002★
ANY album on which B. B. King makes a cameo appearance cannot be all bad, but this gathering of stellar names — headed by the Brecker brothers, Chick Corea, Ramsey Lewis and Arturo Sandoval — never adds up to more than the sum of its parts. Most of the blame belongs with the arrangers, but King delivers the goods, though, on the hard-blowing "Stormy Monday Blues".

OPERA

John Higgins

■ MOZART
La clemenza di Tito
Bartoli/Bonney/Jones/ Heilmann/Academy of Ancient Music/Hogwood
L'Oiseau Lyre 444 131-2 (2 CDs)★★
FOR an opera heard none too often in the theatre, at least in this country, Mozart's final stage work is excellently served on disc. Colin Davis's pioneering set (Philips) with Berganza as Sesto still stands up exceedingly well. More recently there has been John Eliot Gardiner (Archiv) with Anne Sofie von Otter (tonight's Octavian in the Covent Garden *Rosenkavalier*) as another outstanding Sesto. And only last spring Teldec brought out Harnoncourt's elevated reading, with Lucia Popp's Vitellia, her final recording.

L'Oiseau Lyre's *Clemenza* is not going to knock any of these off their perch, but it will appeal to those who want a version on authentic instruments: Christopher Hogwood makes the Academy of Ancient Music sound a much larger band than it actually is in the two finales and uses brisk, no-nonsense tempos. And it will attract the many admirers of Cecilia Bartoli.

The dark, almost masculine timbre of her lower register fits her well for Sesto, who unwisely rates the charms of Vitellia above loyalty to his emperor, Tito. In Rome in AD 79 losing one's head in love was a sure way to come close to losing it altogether. The florid demands of this most difficult of roles give Bartoli no problems and she is at her best when Mozart is at his most taxing and dramatic. But she does not probe Sesto's predicament in the way Ann Murray did for Harnoncourt or Teresa Berganza before her. An aria such as "Parto, parto" could do with a bigger emotional charge.

Della Jones is most disappointing as Vitellia, the lady who causes all the trouble at the imperial court. She throws herself into the role, emphasising that Vitellia is a villainess. But too much of the singing is squally, and when it comes to an extended number, such as "Non più di fiori" where Vitellia at last shows remorse, she cannot hold a candle to Popp.

Among the plus points there is Uwe Heilmann in the title role, exuding benificence in the title role, except when briefly moved to anger. The voice sounds a bit young, more a Tamino than a Tito, but Heilmann handles his arias gracefully. The recitative is less impressive: sometimes not just *secco* but plain arid. He is not the only offender here and Christopher Hogwood must take some of the blame for tedium when most of the orchestra takes a rest.

The pair of lovers, Annio and Servilia, are most winningly played by Diana Montague and Barbara Bonney. Both turn in performances to make one wish they had more to sing, but they help to raise the set into the two-star category.

Bartoli: masculine timbre

ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

■ KORNGOLD
Sinfonietta; Sursum Corda
BBC Philharmonic/Bamert
Chandos CHAN 9317★★★
ONLY 14 when he composed the Sinfonietta, Op 5, Erich Wolfgang Korngold's astonishing precocity almost beggars belief. The four movements that make up this work are so full of invention, and so richly scored, that many a composer twice his age would have been proud of them. Indeed, Strauss, Sibelius and many others commented approvingly on it, and it was widely performed until the rise of Nazism, when it disappeared from the repertoire for half a century.

Matthias Bamert's splendid new recording with the BBC Philharmonic should help to win it more admirers, for it does full justice to Korngold's effusive lyricism and bright, warm orchestral colours. After a typically imaginative first movement, based on a motto theme, the Scherzo quickens the pace still further, but gives way to a gorgeous trio in F sharp major, in which long lyrical lines are effortlessly spun out.

The *Sursum Corda*, contrary to the suggestion of its title, is also a purely orchestral work. The title (translated as "Lift up your hearts") was adopted by the composer "merely to suggest the general character of the work, a mood of struggle and aspiration, a joyous deliverance out of storm and stress". Even more determinedly exuberant than the Sinfonietta, the *Sursum Corda* poses considerable difficulties for the performers, but one would hardly guess it in this confident account.

Many years later Korngold was to use its main theme in his score for Errol Flynn's *Adventures of Robin Hood*. The score won an Oscar and Korngold took great satisfaction in the new-found popularity of music that had originally been received with less than enthusiasm.

CONTEMPORARY

Stephen Pettitt

■ ADAMS
Chamber Symphony/ Grand Pianola Music
London Sinfonietta/Adams
Elektra Nonesuch 7559-79219-2★★
JOHN Adams's Chamber Symphony (1992) is among his most thrilling and substantial works, an essay in fast, brilliant, sometimes comic but never cheap parody that gives the lie to his minimalist — though not his listener-friendly — tag. It is also fiendishly hard to play, though the London Sinfonietta dispatches it with due aplomb.

The composer claims that the piece has an affinity with Schoenberg's Chamber Symphony in its fast and furious action; closer to that, perhaps, than to the cartoon music which was its other inspiration. There is also a lot of Stravinsky here — the opening is a dead ringer for *The Soldier's Tale*.

Grand Pianola Music, the other work here, in which John Alley and Shelagh Sutherland are the two relatively discreet soloists, takes us back to the stock world of American minimalism. The piece's saving graces are its use of colour, surprisingly delicate and sensual, and its sense of climaxes achieved; the turn-offs are those irritating, ceaseless pulsings and stock harmonic progressions, the hallmarks of minimalism and pop music alike.

□ REICH
Tehillim/Three Movements
Schoenberg Ensemble/ de Leeuw/London Symphony Orchestra/Tilson Thomas
Elektra Nonesuch 7559-79295-2
IF you like tribal jazzy-rhythmed ostinatos, if you enjoyed being hypnotised into a state of unthinking, if you do not want to feel any sense of drama or challenge, then you will probably enjoy anything by Steve Reich. I am afraid I hate it. Listening to Reich's music is like staring at a blank plaster wall.

Tehillim dates from 1981. It is a setting of psalms in ancient Hebrew and purports not to be melodically repetitive. Nevertheless, the music has an unbearable sense of blandness, even in the praising of the Lord with the various instruments of Psalm 150; a charismatic religious ritual without the charisma.

Three Movements for orchestra at least changes the quality of timbre (*Tehillim* is scored for female voices and ensemble). It dates from 1986 and is given here with appropriate machine-like precision by the London Symphony Orchestra under Michael Tilson Thomas. Some of the overlapping effects and voice exchanges are superficially quite interesting. But the piece remains effect-music, with no hint of a man bothering with any struggle to express himself. Frightening, in a way.

CHORAL

Hilary Finch

■ HAYDN
Die Schöpfung
Chicago Symphony Orchestra/Solti/soloists
Decca 443 445-2 (2 discs)★★★
NEVER has there been such a cornucopia of *Creations* in the catalogue. For those who look for a sense of prelapsarian innocence and constant surprise in the characterisation of fish and fowl, period-instrument performances, such as those of Kuijken, Hogwood and, most recently and excellently, Bruno Weil, will continue to delight. Those who prefer to luxuriate in the exhilaration of the fortunate fall and the full sensuousness of human response can still do no better than turn to von Karajan's two versions.

But those who want the best of both new worlds may at last have found their paradise in Sir Georg Solti's new version with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus. Like Hogwood and Weil, he uses Peter Brown's new edition, based on Haydn's own performance material, with its niceties of phrasing and dynamics transforming the behaviour of modern instruments, and with its wonderfully muted brass in one of the most potent representations of chaos on disc. An unnecessarily self-denying forte piano adds its sweet voice to the continuo group.

The long, translucent crescendo of the strings through the sunrise recalls at once Sir Georg's way with *The Magic Flute*, another work of enlightenment whose sensibilities and ideas *The Creation* so fascinatingly shares. Both tingle with an excited engagement with the score: the choruses romp through thei frugal writing and spring int easeful rapport with orchestr and soloists.

Solti: best of both worlds

The three angels have high old time: tenor Herber Lippert as Uriel celebratin order as much as light, bari tone René Pape as an athlet Raphael, and Ruth Ziesak re creating lark, dove and night ingale in turn as a incomparable Gabriel. Sh doubles as Eva and in that ro is (alas!) the very picture winsome submission to Anto Scharinger's warmly prote tive, primeval bass Adam.

★ *Worth hearing*
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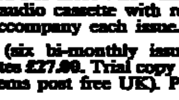

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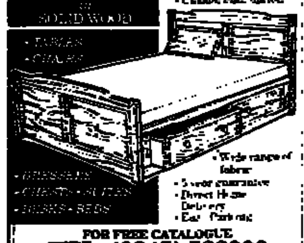

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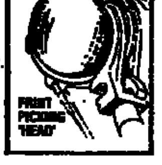

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Broken handles, flimsy casing, too heavy, too big, too small and extremely expensive are the complaints we all make about luggage. Until now, – The Old Tannery Collection have now designed the ideal 'TRAVELLER-FRIENDLY' suit carrier – 'Elite'. And it's made from real pigskin leather now at a price that's unbeatable – £69.95.

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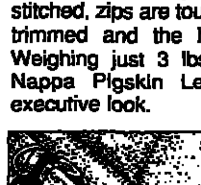
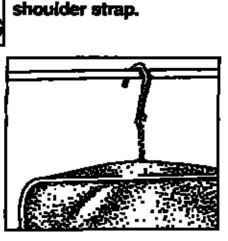
Usually the smart looking bags break within seconds and the durable ones are incredibly unsightly – and HEAVY! Not Elite, combining practicality with style, the seams are double stitched, zips are toughened, the pockets are trimmed and the handles are reinforced. Weighing just 3 lbs it's made from Black Nappa Pigskin Leather giving a smart executive look.



The suit/garment carrier comes complete with a comfortable carry handle and an adjustable padded shoulder strap.

You also receive a detachable hanging hook which enables you to conveniently hang up your carrier when you are travelling.



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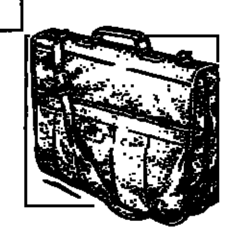

Just pack your suits or clothes into the carrier and you immediately have the perfect travelling wardrobe.

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Hurry order your Elite Garment Carrier now at the unbeatable price of just £69.95 plus £4.95 p&p and insurance and SAVE £50 on the *Manufacturers Recommended Retail* Price. Simply fill in the coupon below or phone our credit card hotline, your Elite Carrier will then be delivered direct to your door.

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Please send me the Suit/Garment Carrier(s) as indicated below at £74.90 including p&p and insurance.

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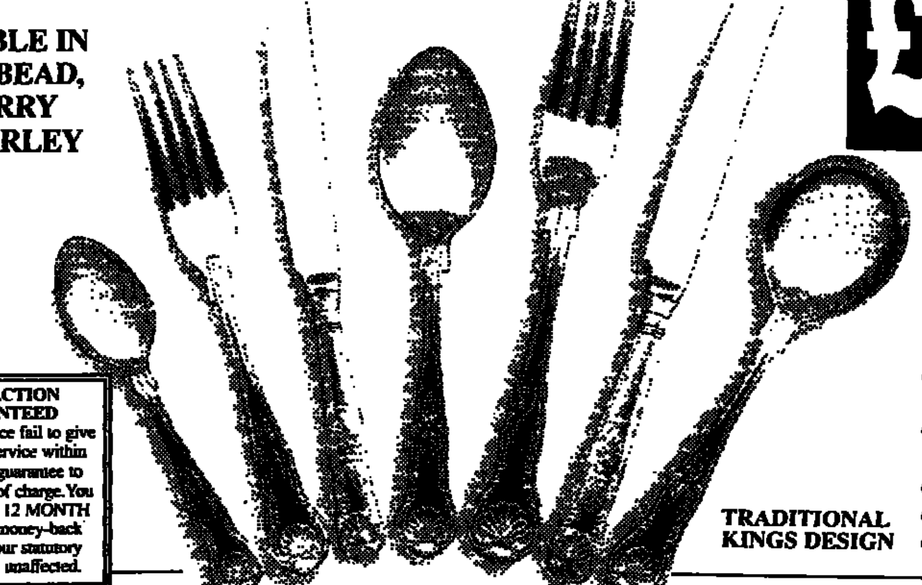

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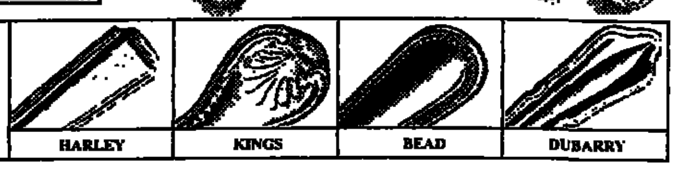

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Style	Qty. (No. of settings)	Order No.	Total
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Bead Cutlery		PJ 105 0O	
Dubarry Cutlery		PJ 104 5O	
Harley Cutlery		PJ 214 0O	
		GRAND TOTAL	£

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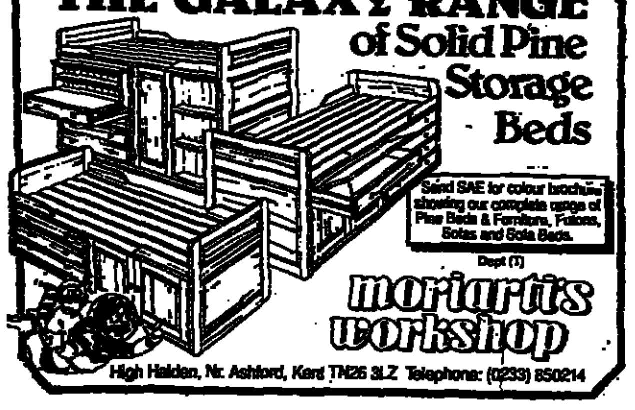

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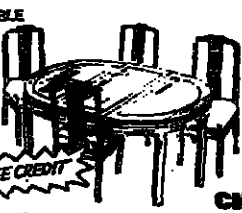

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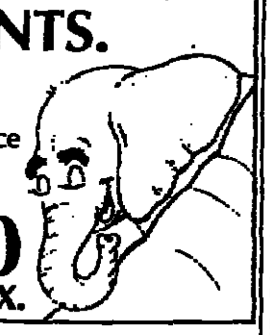

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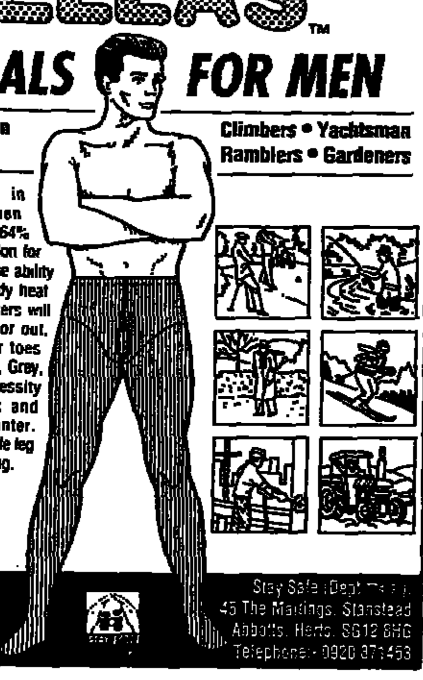

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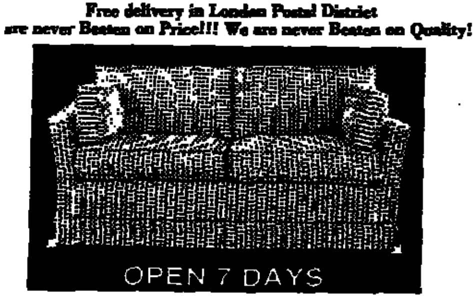

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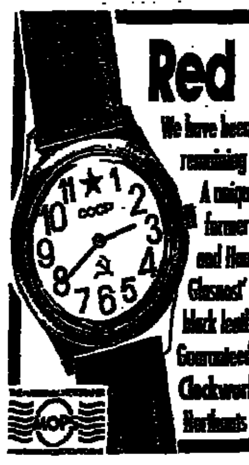

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We have been fortunate enough to acquire from Russia the last remaining stocks of this mechanical wristwatch.

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Clockwork & Steam, Old Bakery, 24 Brockley Rd, Towcester, Northants NN12 6DJ Tel: 0327 358080 Fax: 0327 358388

Champagne Truffles

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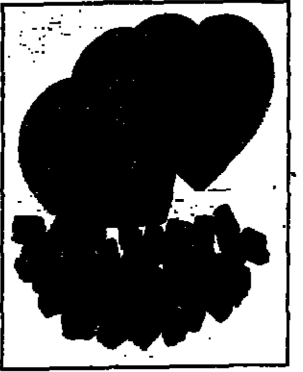

Here's a delicious way to win the heart of a friend on Valentine's Day: a magnificent box of chocolate truffles made with *marc de champagne.*

These are no ordinary chocolates. They are the *grand cru* of tastes.

The slightly crunchy outer shell is in the French-style Valrhona chocolate (a blend of sun-dried Trinitario and Forastero ground and roasted cocoa beans). This style was perfected by Thierry Dumouchel, a *maitre patissier*, while working with two leading Paris establishments - Fauchon and Le Notre. M Dumouchel has recently launched Norwood House Truffles of Yorkshire. Inside each chocolate is a mouth-watering combination of creamy dark and milk chocolate.

The chocolates - 250 grams in weight - come in a red velvet heart-shaped presentation box, complete with compliment slip.

After dipping in, the chocolates are best kept in an airtight container in the fridge to preserve the delicate flavours. Bring them back to room temperature before dipping in again.

To ensure delivery for Valentine's Day, orders must be received by February 6 at the latest.

HOW TO ORDER

By post: please complete and return the coupon with your remittance to: The Times Valentine Offer, PO Box 333, Leighton Buzzard, Beds LU7 7ZD.

By telephone: holders of Access/Visa cards can order direct on 0525 851945 (24 hours). For enquiries only, call 0525 853399.

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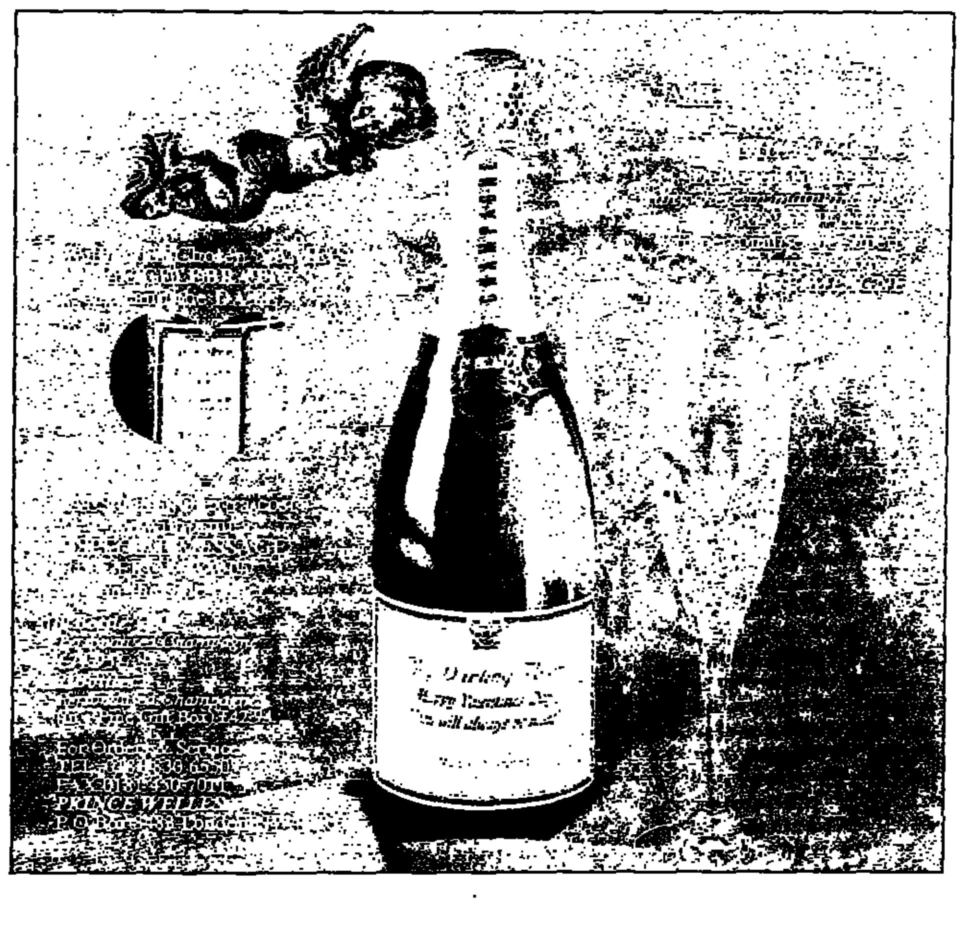

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GARDENING

GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON
replies to readers' letters

Q I want to replace some fast-growing conifers with evergreen shrubs no more than 8ft high. There are drains running through the ground near by, and the soil is clay. What species should I plant? — G. R. Jones, Loughton, Essex

A Avoid shrubs that belong to the heather family (*Ericaceae*) such as rhododendron and pieris.

Apart from those, there are laurels, which are tough and would not balk at ground impoverished by conifers. If you enrich the soil, you could plant less crude evergreens such as sweetly scented *Osmanthus delavayi*, *x burkwoodii* and *decorus*. *Mahonia* 'Charity' and *lomariifolia* combine scented flowers with architectural foliage, and offer a fountain shape to contrast with the more usual rounded shapes.

If you are prepared for spines, there are good evergreen berberis such as *B. julianae* and *sargentiana*, the latter making a splendid fountain of stems which, at a distance, might be mistaken for bamboo. Non-invasive bamboos such as *Fargesia (Arundinaria) murieliae* or *Phyllostachys nigra* are possibilities, as are the berry-bearing skimmias and hollies, green or variegated.

Laurels are the most likely to seek out your drains. For the rest, take a chance; they will be no worse than your conifers.

Q Two years ago I was given a potted *Camellia* 'Debbie,' which produced one flower in 1993 and last year. In wild weather, it has been lifted into the shelter of the garage. Occasionally, it has shed a few leaves, but in the past fortnight it has shed the lot. What have I done wrong, and how can I rescue the plant? — S. Freeman, London NW9.

A Camellias, like rhododendrons, require an acid soil so there is a tendency to think that they need the same amount of moisture. In fact, camellias will thrive in surprisingly hot positions, providing the roots are not cooked and do not dry out. It is far better to err on the sunny and dry side than on the shady and wet side.

It is all too easy to sour the soil in a large pot or tub by overwatering or overfeeding. I suspect your plant has been killed with kindness, and that too much moisture and a stagnant compost have destroyed the roots.

Keep the plant barely moist in the garage for the winter, and if there are any signs of life left in spring, plant it out in a bed of acid soil, where its roots can enjoy a well-drained, well-oxygenated soil.

● *Readers wishing to have gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend,* The Times, *1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.* The Times *regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.*

Hellebores can add colour on the greyest of days, says **George Plumptre**, The Times Gardener

Splashes of winter cheer

Returning to my garden in the chill of late January after a warm holiday in Cape Town, I found little to dispel my longing to be back in the South African sunshine. One note of cheerfulness is provided by my hellebores, most of which I planted in autumn 1993. There are only a few plants but their bold evergreen leaves and curious slightly heavy-petalled flowers, ranging from pale green to white to a browny-red, give great pleasure at this barren time of year.

In recent years, hellebores have become highly fashionable. This is a pity because it gives the impression that hellebores are popular because they are chic, obscuring the qualities that make them such outstanding plants for almost any situation. It also leads to people regarding the plants with unnatural devotion. I remember attending an NCCPG plant fair with a friend who wanted to buy a not widely available named cultivar of *Helleborus orientalis*. The protective stallholder was not happy to sell the plant to her until a mutual gardening acquaintance had assured him that the plant would be going to a good home.

WEEKEND TIPS

- *Sow some seed of hardy annuals under glass to provide good early plants for putting out in borders.*
- *Weather permitting, rake your lawn with a springtine rake to remove dead matted grass and moss and to encourage the best growth by new grass when the weather warms up.*
- *Sweet pea seed can be sown in an unheated greenhouse or cold frame.*
- *As long as the ground is neither frozen nor waterlogged, this is a good time of year to plant roses.*

One of the characteristics that makes hellebores easy plants, however, is the little attention they need. The ones in my garden certainly fall into this category because they have been untended since planting. Most of them are unnamed cultivars of *orientalis* — as a group, my favourites. I have planted them on a small bank at the front of our house, which is partly shaded by the evergreen canopy of an old *Arbutus unedo*, the 'Strawberry Tree'. The soil is not especially rich, but the constant semi-shade ensures the good moisture retention that hellebores like.

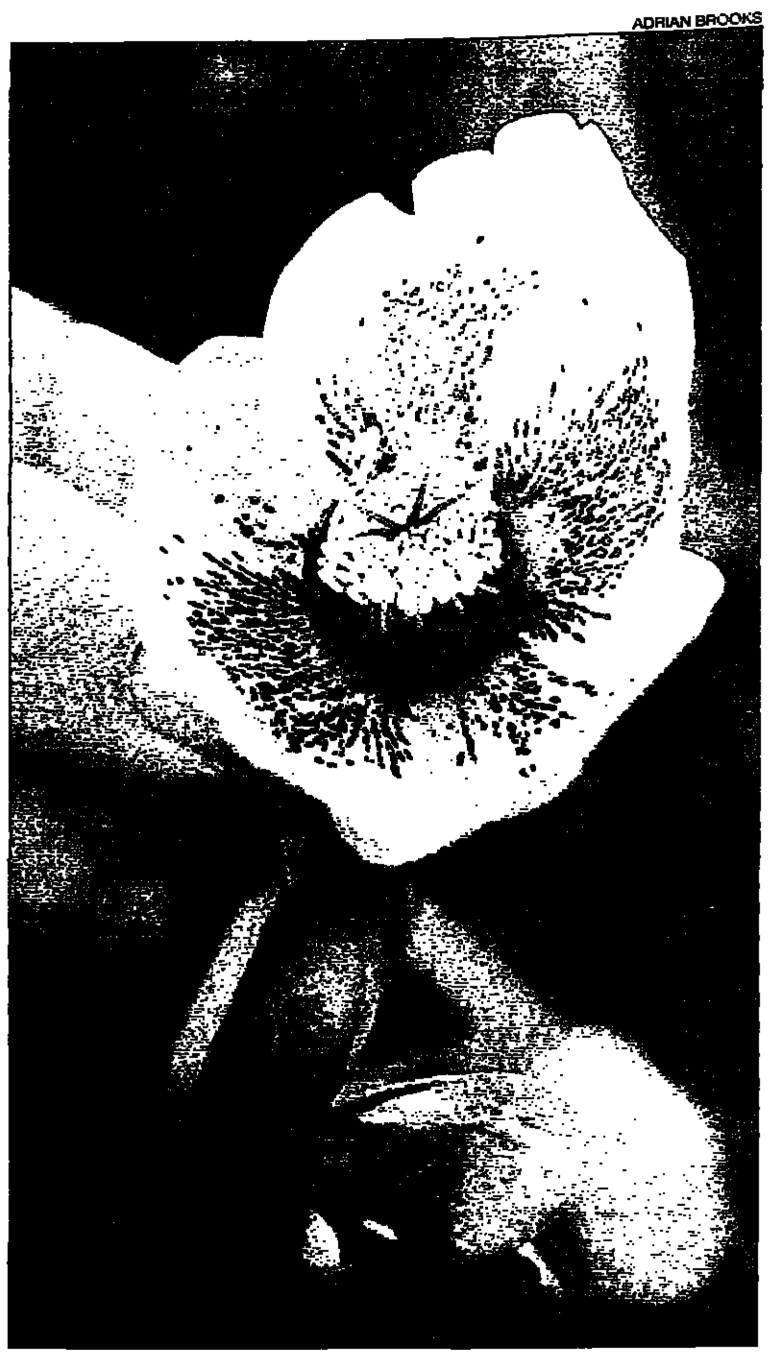
The first to flower this year has been a plant with warm, deep-purple flowers. The rounded buds were visible before I went away and most of them are now fully out. They are protected by the growing mantle of new leaves, whose green freshness is as rewarding as the flowers among winter drabness. Most hellebore connoisseurs suggest cutting off the old foliage once new flowering stems have appeared, and this certainly does improve the appearance, as after a full year the evergreen leaves inevitably look tatty and leathery. The main reason I enjoy this plant is because, in its second season in my garden, it has increased from the single flowering stem it had when originally planted to half a dozen, all bearing healthy flowers and leaves.

As a group, *orientalis* cultivars have produced the widest range of flower colour among hellebores. The darkest purple ones are nearly black and others range through mauve to red, pink, clear white and the greeny-cream that is such a distinctive hellebore colour.

The way they carry their flowers, slightly pendulous like tiny umbrellas, invites you to bend and turn the flower upwards, often revealing spotted colouring. This is especially striking when the spots are purple or mauve on cream-coloured flowers. One of my plants that is not yet fully out is densely spotted with mauve on a creamy-white background, and is a source of wonder to my children when I turn the flower cup upwards to reveal the delicate marking.

The other hellebores I have are *Helleborus corsicus*, a name that identifies their place of origin as Corsica, although they also began in Sardinia. Now renamed *H. argutifolius*, a reference to their thin, tapering leaves with serrated edges, they have bulkier foliage than *H. orientalis* and grow bigger, to about 2ft. I have planted these on the edge of a border in the main garden, a sunny site which they seem to enjoy.

ADRIAN BROOKS



Helleborus orientalis: George Plumptre's favourite hellebore

There is a freshness and vigour in the new growth of *H. argutifolia* to produce its combination of foliage and flowers that few other winter-flowering plants rival. And later in the year the quantity of plants appearing makes new growth remarkable. My plants have just reached what I consider the best stage, when their crowns of pale-green flower stems have grown and the clusters of slightly creamier flowers — bell-shaped until fully open — have just begun to open. Later in the year, the handsome foliage will remain as an evergreen background for spring and summer perennials.

Both my *argutifolius* and *orientalis* hellebores are within easy reach of the house, which I think is important because hellebores merit close inspection. But one of their main qualities is adaptability, perhaps because many varieties are naturally plants of marginal habitat, growing on woodland edges or scrubby hillside.

My mother has established hellebores in large quantities in her woodland garden, where they are equally happy in semi-shade or a small sunny clearing. But they are just as suitable for growing in a more formalised garden border or bed.

The snowdrops that grow close to my hellebores on the bank in front of the house make an ideal combination. In a few weeks, I will divide the snowdrops — all of which are old clumps — and replant some among the hellebores. As well as the natural increase in the size of my original hellebore plants, I hope to expand their number by cultivating some of the seedlings that *H. orientalis* produces if the flowerheads are left alone.

So long as you are happy with not knowing what particular colour shade the seedling will produce, this is the best way to increase your stock of hellebores. New plants rarely cost less than £5 and, for unusual or new cultivars, can be as much as £12. But when buying hellebores, you should remember that a single plant will invariably provide great pleasure. If sensibly planted, ideally in the spring, most varieties live for many years and will steadily expand in size.

Most garden centres and nurseries sell a selection of the more readily available hellebores. A wider range is available from specialist nurseries, some of which are listed below.

● *Ashwood Nurseries, Greensforge, Kingswinford, West Midlands (01384 401996); addressed A5 envelope with four first-class stamps for catalogue. Phedar Nurseries, Bunkers Hill, Romiley, Stockport, Cheshire (0161 430 3772); stamped, addressed A5 envelope for catalogue. Higher End Nursery, Hale, Fordingbridge, Hampshire (01725 512243); addressed envelope with two first-class stamps for catalogue. Rarer Plants, Ashfield House, Austfield Lane, Monk Tryston, Leeds (01977 682263); addressed envelope with two first-class stamps for a catalogue.*

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A garden is being created to celebrate the intrepid explorers who risked their lives to bring back plants from all corners of the world

A journey through time

On a February night in 1918, Edward Wilson crawled beneath the shelter of a fallen tree and rolled himself in a blanket. "It was a weird scene in the mountains of Formosa," he later wrote: gathered around fires were his porters, "two score half-naked ex-head-hunters" crooning and sharpening their knives. Wondering how safe his scalp might be, Wilson fell asleep.

But then, dealing with head-hunters was all in the line of duty for the professional plant collector. Gardeners will never cease to be grateful to men such as "Chinese" Wilson, who risked their lives to bring back countless beautiful and exotic species. At Capel Manor, the Horticultural and Environmental Centre in north London, a bold project for the millennium is taking shape. One and a quarter acres of open ground, previously a rugby pitch, is being transformed into the Plantsman's Labyrinth, a tribute to the great hardy plant collectors from the years 1500 to 2000.

A mere one and a quarter acres to achieve so much? You may think it would need a hundred acres to do justice to a theme of such grandeur — not to mention costing a small fortune. However, Capel Manor's 80,000 visitors a year well know its skill in fitting a quart into a pint pot.

Set in an ancient 35-acre estate bound on one side by the M25, Capel Manor is Greater London's only specialist college for horticulture and countryside studies. As Dr Stephen Dowbiggin, Capel's chief executive, says: "We provide one-stop inspiration for visitors and people wanting to work in horticulture." Each week, a thousand students attend courses. Capel trains garden contractors, park keepers, and garden-centre assistants. There is also a degree course in garden design.

The gardens extend this educational purpose to the general gardener, aspiring yet often puzzled about quite what he or she really wants. Around the attractive mid-18th century brick manor house lie a patchwork of quite distinct gardens. As well as such traditional features as a fine walled garden, parkland, and a good collection of trees and shrubs, there are gardens for handicapped people, demonstration gardens sponsored by *Gardening Which?* and Chelsea-type gardens paid for by companies in the horticulture business.

Capel Manor is therefore emphatically not a botanical garden — hence the idiosyncratic character of its Plantsman's Labyrinth. Dr Dowbiggin conceived it in response to a purely educational problem: how to bring historical botany into the curriculum without jeopardising the objectives of late 20th-century garden management.

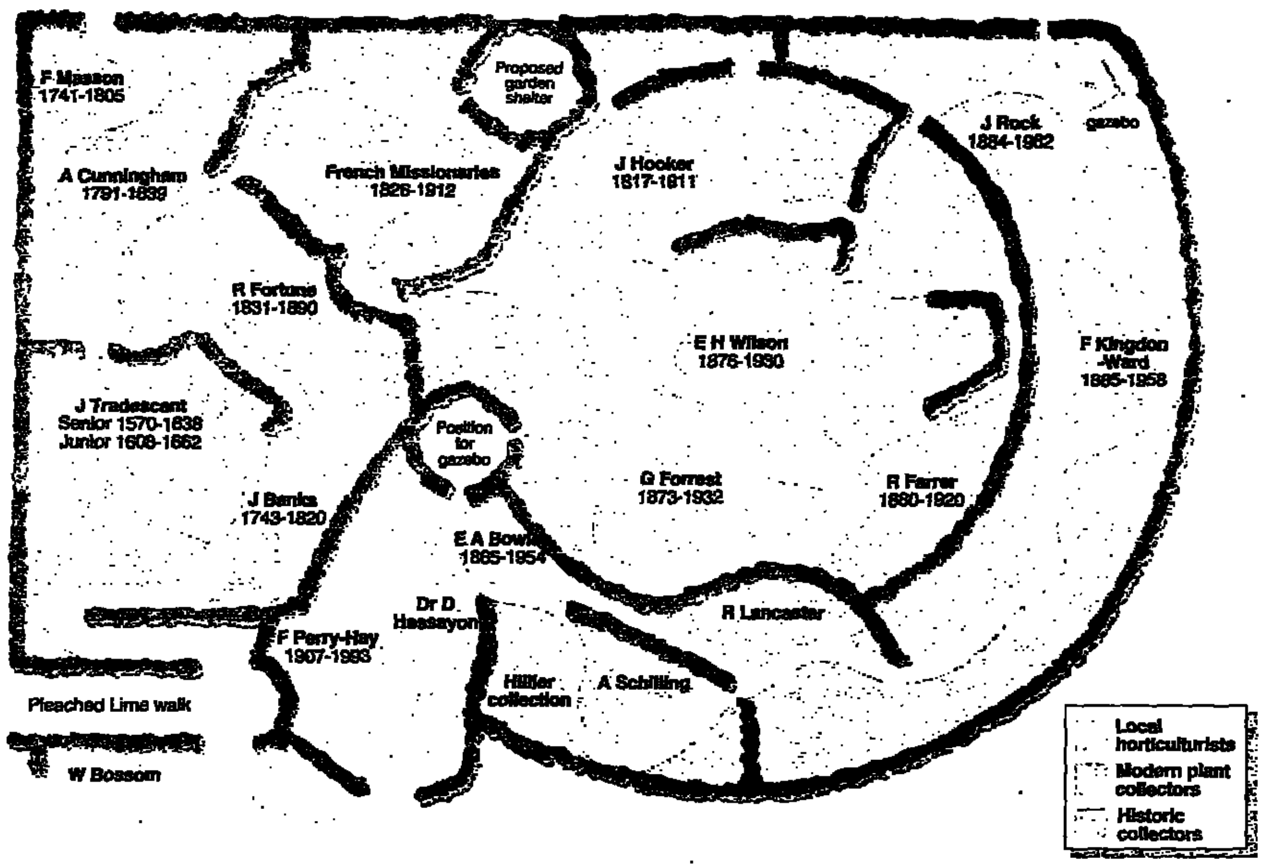
Capel already offered vaguely "historic" gardens, introducing the public to different styles. There is an Italianate-Edwardian holly maze, a temple similar to that at Stowe plus a pond, a Victorian garden of ivy trained up Agriframe, and so on. Purists can wince but Dr Dowbiggin retorts that the vagueness is intentional. Faithful recreations of old gardens are a nice idea but they can be dreary. Moreover, that kind of scholarly knowledge is not much use to horticulture students, very few of whose future employers will want the clock turned back to John Evelyn's or even Gertrude Jekyll's day.

Hence the idea was born of a garden recalling great plantsmen through their most prized introductions. Comparable gardens do exist, for example at the Museum of Garden History in Lambeth, south London, at the Chelsea Physic Garden and the Cambridge Botanical Garden. But Capel's garden, highly selective and idiosyncratic, is aimed at the general public.

Capel Manor

☐ Capel Manor (right), Bullmoor Lane, Enfield, north London (01992 763849). Gardens open 10am-4.30pm weekdays only (last entry, 3pm); from April, 10am-5.30pm daily (last entry, 4.30pm). Adults £2; £3 from April. Children £1.

☐ Quotations from Wilson are taken from the recent biography, "*Chinese*" *Wilson*, by his great-nephew, Roy W. Briggs (HMSO, £19.95).



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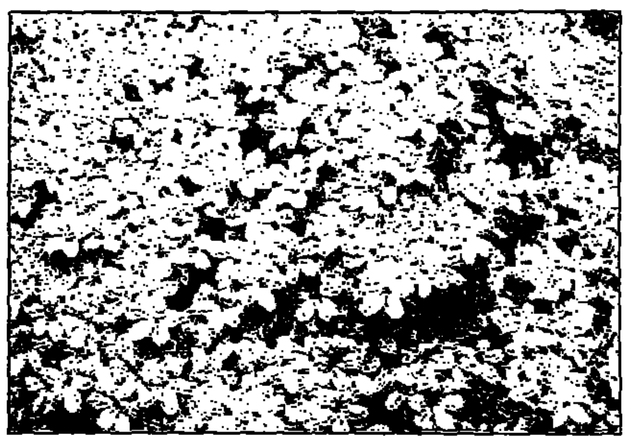

Above: the design for the Plantsman's Labyrinth. Top right: magnolias have already been introduced: Bowles's Periwinkle (middle) and kurume azalea (bottom) will follow

Foreign collectors do not feature, except for Père David and the French missionaries, and the Austrian Joseph Rock. One may regret the absence of the Veitch family: the Scotsman David Douglas who introduced the Douglas fir; and the Irish Augustine Henry (we owe him lovely *Lonicera henryi*). But the best-known names are there: the Tradescants, Banks, Hooker, Wilson, Farrer, Fortune and Kingdon-Ward, as well as the less familiar names of Cunningham, explorer of Australia, and Masson to whom we owe the cineraria.

Translating concept into garden is proving no small task and there is not much to see yet. The landscaping is done and the site is hedged with hornbean and (temporary) golden Leyland cypress to break the wind. Ten per cent of the eventual thousand or so plants are in; mostly the trees, such as *Pseudolarix amabilis* (Fortune, South China, 1852) and *Betula maximowicziana* (Forrest, Japan, 1893), and a selection of the rhododendrons and magnolias that so elated wealthy 19th-century garden owners.

"We'd no idea how horrendous the project would be. We thought we'd get a few plant lists and be away," Dr Dowbiggin says ruefully. Two staff members are researching the collectors and then "sourcing" suitable plants. The hope is that whenever possible, plants will be direct descendants from the original specimens numbered and sent home by their finders. Historic plant collections and nurseries are now being approached to send seed or to propagate plants.

Hillier's Arboretum, at Ampfield, in Hampshire, was the obvious starting-place. The Hillier nursery, founded in 1864, has been responsible for introducing a huge variety of splendid trees and shrubs into the trade. Hillier's will have its own section for which the curator Barry Phillips is propagating and growing on many shrubs.

Another promising lead comes through the Cornish nursery of Burncoose and Southdown. Charles Williams, the co-owner, belongs to the Williams family of Caerhays Castle, famous in the Edwardian era for sponsoring plant expeditions. The Capel staff were thrilled to hear that at Caerhays grow venerable rhododendrons, kurume azaleas, magnolias and michelias, which in many cases are the very specimens collected by Forrest, Wilson, and Kingdon-Ward. If *Times* readers have plants with such illustrious provenances, Dr Dowbiggin hopes they will get in touch.

Tony Schilling and Roy Lancaster represent modern collectors. Since a number of their introductions have yet to make the leap into commercial cultivation, tracking down stock has proved surprisingly tricky. The truth is that while nurserymen are honoured and intrigued to be given seed of extraordinarily obscure species, they cannot always afford to propagate and promote plants for which there is no demand. Added to which, novelties may well prove not to be "garden worthy". However, if all goes well, the labyrinth will introduce visitors to rarities such as red-flowered *Mahonia gracilipes* and an elegant new honeysuckle *Lonicera deflexicalyx*.

> ❛We provide one-stop inspiration for visitors❜

As well as intrepid collectors, room on the 20th-century fringe has been found for garden experts with local connections. Close to Capel is Myddelton House with the garden created by E A Bowles — "Gussie" (to the few). Charming plants that we owe to his sharp eye include that old favourite Bowles's Purple Wallflower, and Bowles's Periwinkle. Also honoured is the late Frances Perry, garden writer and pioneer broadcaster; without those protests in 1966, Capel Manor would have disappeared beneath housing estates. Favourite herbaceous plants of hers in the garden will include irises and poppies bred by the celebrated Amos Perry at the family nursery in Enfield.

The most unexpected name is the ubiquitous Dr David Hessayon, another loyal supporter of Capel Manor. Britain's best-selling garden expert reviews his career in a botanical version of *This Is Your Life* using the roses 'Lancashire Life', 'City of Leeds', 'The Doctor' and so on. Of course, neither Dr Hessayon nor local rose breeder Bill Bossom have the stature of intrepid plant-hunters such as Farrer, Forrest or "Chinese" Wilson. Even so, the message the Plantsman's Labyrinth will proclaim to its public in the 21st century remains clear. As Wilson himself wrote: "Plants appeal to all and the history of how, when and from whence they came should add to the pleasure we derive from their presence."

PATRICIA MORISON

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★ Elasticated waist
★ Elasticated stretch cuffs
★ Accessible pockets
★ Tough nylon zip
★ 100% waterproof/ windproof
★ Elasticated stretch ankles

SUITABLE FOR MEN AND WOMEN

OUR GUARANTEE Order with confidence. The Stormcoat and Trousers come with our full 12 month 'no quibble' money-back guarantee of satisfaction. Your statutory rights remain unaffected.

SAVE BUY TWO SUITS FOR only £19.90

IDEAL FOR:
● ALL OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES
● GOLFERS ● WALKERS ● DAYS OUT

Due to the overwhelming success of our original Stormcoat, we have designed a NEW IMPROVED Stormcoat that is now available to you at our amazingly low U.K. launch price of only £9.95. Original used by Ron Bryson to walk from Lands End to John O'Groats, they are made to withstand all weathers.

Not only are we offering you this unique 100% Waterproof and Windproof Stormcoat for only £9.95, but you also receive a matching pair of Stormproof Trousers absolutely FREE!

The Stormcoat comes in an attractive navy blue with white trim. The new improved texture finish on the Stormcoatsenables them to withstand the most stormy weather. It is lightweight and suitable for both men and women of all ages and will prove indispensable for any outdoor pursuits. Features include sturdy front zipper, handy side pockets, drawstring fastening to hood, air vents concealed under storm yoke across back, foldaway hood and elasticated cuffs and hem.

Sizes: to fit chest/bust: Small 34"/36"; Medium 38"/40"; Large 42"; X. Large 44"; X.X. Large 46". Please add £1.95 p&p & ins. for each Stormsuit ordered.

FREE MATCHING TROUSERS

The ideal companion for the Stormcoat are these superb 100% waterproof and windproof trousers that you will receive absolutely FREE when you order our Stormcoat. They come in matching Navy Blue and features include elasticated waist and ankles. Guaranteed to see you through the worst weather!

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Order lines are open 8am-9pm, 7 days a week.
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● Goods are normally despatched within 10 days, but please allow up to 28 days for delivery.
● Orders from Ireland are welcome.
● If you do not require the FREE trousers then order the Stormcoat using the order no. PJ 588 2O at £11.90 (inc. p&p and ins.).

* PERSONAL VISITORS MAY ORDER DIRECT FROM THE ADDRESS OPPOSITE (10am-4pm Mon-Fri only), GOODS WILL THEN BE DESPATCHED POST FREE.

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To: High Seasons Clothing Co, P.O. Box 239, 36 Hilton Street, Manchester M99 1LH.
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Please send me my Stormcoat at only £11.90 (inc. p&p and ins.) and I will receive the trousers absolutely FREE!
OR SAVE and buy two suits for £19.90 POST PAID!

Item	Qty.	Order No.	Size	Price inc. p&p & ins.
Stormcoat & FREE Trousers		PJ 552 5O		
Stormcoat & FREE Trousers		PJ 552 5O		
			GRAND TOTAL	£

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Or debit my Access, Visa, Delta or Switch Card
No. ______________________ Switch Issue No. ______
Expiry Date ________ Signature ______________
Mr/Mrs/Miss ______________________
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Gardens to visit this weekend

THIS year the National Trust is celebrating its centenary. Among its many activities there are few of which the Trust can be more proud than the restoration of a number of historic parks and gardens, including important examples of landscape and garden design. Sadly, few open in winter, but those that do are as rewarding at this time of year as in mid-summer.

☐ **Claremont, Esher, Surrey (01372 469421)**

Open daily, except December 25, January 1, and Mondays from October 31 to March 1, 10am-6pm. £1.80 weekdays; £2.60 Sundays and Bank Holidays, children half-price (under-fives free).

Only Stowe, whose temples are being restored by the National Trust, boasts work by more distinguished members of the 18th-century landscape movement than Claremont. Begun in 1715 for the Duke of Newcastle, Claremont's landscape had contributions from Charles Bridgeman, Sir John Vanbrugh, William Kent and Capability Brown. From the 1920s the landscape fell into neglect until the Trust restored it in 1975. Now visitors can enjoy all the 18th-century features. The long view across the bowling green to the belvedere built by Vanbrugh on a mound has been reopened, but most impressive are the restored curving terraces of Bridgeman's unique three-acre grass amphitheatre which overlooks the lake.

Kent "naturalised" the shape of the lake from an original formal pool, built the grotto and made the island for the classical temple that he also designed. In the winter, visitors can fully appreciate the views across the landscape which is a precious survivor in the suburbs of London.

GARDEN PICTURE LIBRARY

The formal Dutch water garden at Westbury Court

☐ **Westbury Court, Westbury-on-Severn, Gloucestershire (01452 760461).**

Open during winter by appointment. Adults £2.20; children £1.10.

Since my first visit to Westbury ten years ago, this gem of a formal water garden has been one of my favourites, a unique reminder of the Dutch influence on English gardens during the late-17th century. When the National Trust acquired the property in the 1960s the garden was in ruins. Restoration work included dredging and rewalling the canals, rebuilding the gazebo, and replanting an 18th-century parterre of box hedging and summer annuals. Now the garden is as delightful as it is historically important.

☐ **Ham House, Richmond, Surrey (0181-940 1950)**

Open daily, 10.30-6pm (dusk if earlier). Free.

In 1679 John Evelyn wrote of Ham: "The parterres, Flower Gardens, Orangeries, Groves, Avenues, Courts, Statues, Perspectives, Fountains, Aviaries, and all this on the banks of the Sweetest River in the World must needs be surprising." That was Ham House's heyday, when it was home to the Duke and Duchess of Lauderdale, and it is this period that the National Trust has recreated in its restoration of the garden, started in 1976, using contemporary plans and plant lists.

On one side of the house a parterre of box hedges and gravel paths is filled with a pattern of lavender and santolina clipped into domes — an unforgettable sight on a bright frosty day. Arbours of hornbeam and cherries add to the 17th-century style. The largest area of garden lies to the south of the house where a "wilderness" has been recreated. During the 17th century a formal pattern of paths led through grass to surprise discoveries such as pavilions.

☐ **Sheringham Park, Upper Sheringham, Norfolk (01263 823778)**

Open daily, dawn to dusk. £2.30 per car.

The landscape park is regarded as probably the most accomplished work by Humphry Repton. It was one of his last commissions, carried out from 1811 for his friends the Upcher family. At any time of year it is a superb place to walk, and visitors should make sure they reach the classical domes temple set up on a small rise, which was built in 1975 by the last Upcher to live at Sheringham. The temple provides memorable views to the house, and to the sea beyond.

GEORGE PLUMPTRE

A chance find in a junk shop inspired the founder of the English Playing Card Society. Now he is leader of the pack

The hand of fate builds a house of cards

COLIN SHEPHERD

Major Welsh with English heraldic cards dated 1688

One of Major Donald Welsh's greatest finds was an unopened box containing a dozen packs of Wills Capstan Navy Cut cigarettes playing cards dating from the early 1950s. It cost him a few pounds in a junk shop in Bristol nine years ago. Today it is worth several hundred pounds.

Major Welsh, 66, has kept the carton in mint condition. It is worth more that way. Besides, he has 5,500 packs to choose from when he sets up the card table.

The major is secretary of the English Playing Card Society, which he founded 11 years ago, soon after retiring from the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment. It now has 162 members, including some in America and Australia. He was in his late forties when he started his collection and, since he retired, his hobby has virtually taken over his life.

"The start of my collection was a complete fluke," says Major Welsh. "For my last few years in the Army I dealt with recruitment which involved a lot of travelling. One day I spotted three old leather suitcases in a junk shop in Boscombe, Wiltshire. I decided to buy one for £15 to replace the battered plastic case I had been using and found it full of playing cards — 264 complete packs, many foreign.

"I found them absolutely fascinating. Quite simply I was hooked, and have been ever since. I had collected all sorts of other things from coins to matchboxes in the past, but never thought of playing cards as collectable items."

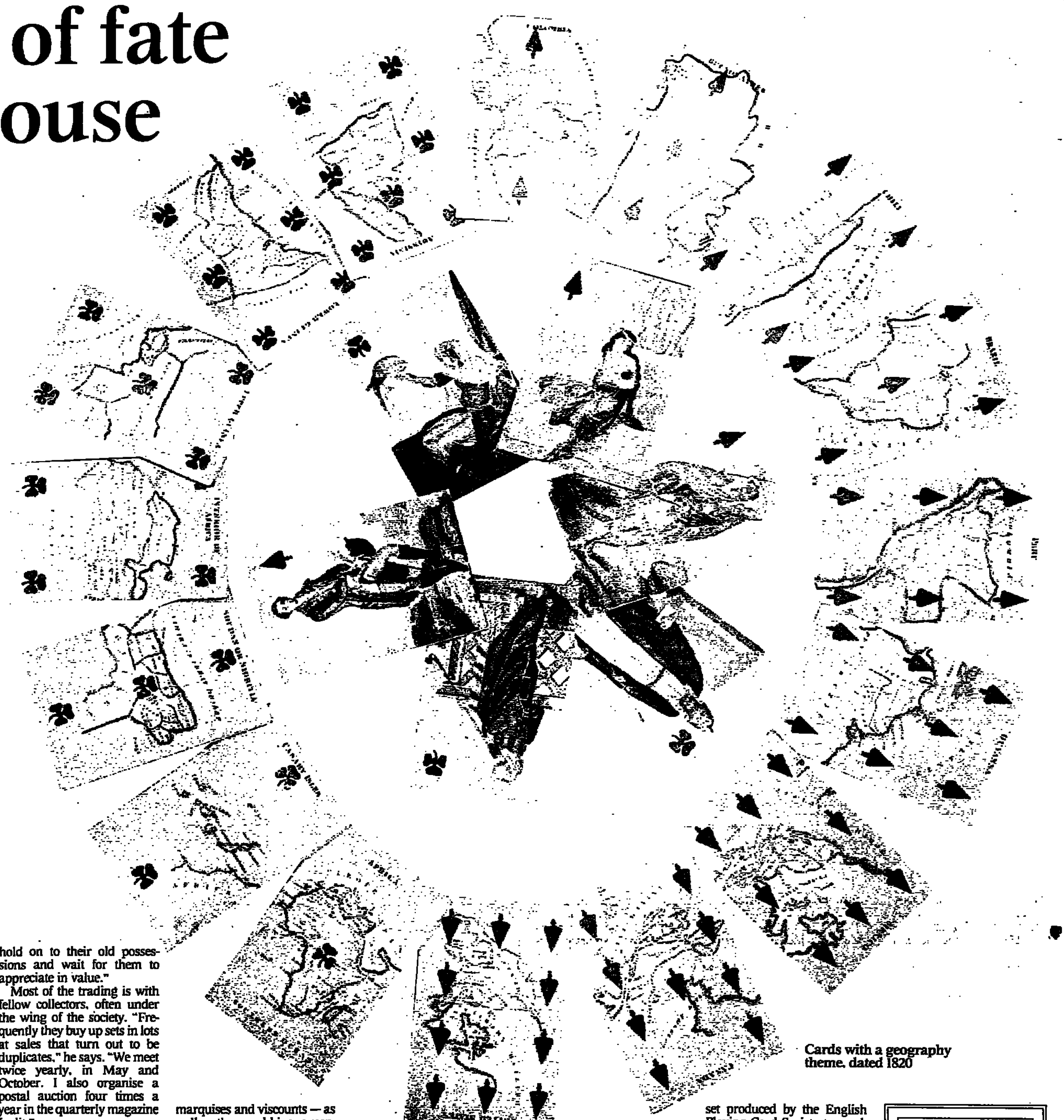
Within six months of his first buy Major Welsh realised that such a broad subject needed specialisation. He chose English playing cards, and in 1984, eight years later, he founded the English Playing Card Society with fellow collector, Peter Way, a secondary school headmaster in Hampshire.

Major Welsh looks after the day-to-day activities of the society from his flat in central Bath, a task which keeps him in touch with collectors in seven countries.

"When I travel or go on holiday I often find cards in junk shops, in odd lots at sales or on market stalls, but really the best days for finding unusual packs in these places have gone," he says. "I think this is because people now hold on to their old possessions and wait for them to appreciate in value."

Most of the trading is with fellow collectors, often under the wing of the society. "Frequently they buy up sets in lots at sales that turn out to be duplicates," he says. "We meet twice yearly, in May and October. I also organise a postal auction four times a year in the quarterly magazine I edit."

It is in this way that Major Welsh has picked up some of his rarest specimens, including a valuable 1668 pack with armorial bearings — bishops, marquises and viscounts — as well as the usual king, queen, ace and jack (originally knave). Several other members of the society have similarly vast collections, though few have as many English cards as the major.



Cards with a geography theme, dated 1820

To have any value, packs of cards must be complete. They must also, as far as possible, be in mint condition. Then they can be worth anything from a few pounds for a single pack from the 1950s — a set issued as a giveaway by Andrews' liver salts or Fry's cocoa would be a typical example — to £20 or more for the same sort of thing from the turn of the century.

English packs that predate the Great Fire of 1666 are very rare, although card games were played here from the mid-15th century, having probably originated in China or the Middle East.

Card games in Major Welsh's collection include countless forms of Snap and Happy Families; also games created around products, sports and events, such as "The Prince of Wales" visit to India" game by Ogilvy of London, dated 1875.

Even in the standard English packs of cards the design of the court cards — king, queen and jack — are extraordinarily varied. Some of the most colourful were produced as giveaways by cigarette and whisky companies, mainly in the 1930s.

Others in the major's collection advertise Fairy dyes, Spratts' dog foods and Hovis bread. There are also unlimited numbers of standard packs celebrating royal events, including the wedding of Queen Victoria to Prince Albert in 1840, and that of Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh, to the Grand Duchess Marie of Russia in 1874. Major Welsh has several fortune-telling packs, cards with backs bearing the insignia of armed forces and examples produced by shipping and railway companies, including the Great Western Railway 1924 series featuring photographs of scenic places the trains ran to, or near, such as Torquay, Pembroke Castle, Fishguard and Land's End. The great shipping lines such as Cunard and P&O also produced souvenir packs that were placed in passengers' cabins.

"Non-standard" packs is the term used when the court cards bear unusual designs — such as the "Michelin Man" kings, queens and jacks in a set produced by the Michelin Tyre Co in the 1930s — or when the cards themselves are an unusual shape as a gimmick, such as the round sets produced by the Sketchley cleaning company in the 1930s or the Zulu-shield shaped packs produced by John Waddington and Co in the 1960s.

Major Welsh also has transformation packs where the numbers or "pips" on cards become pictures. A good recent example was the special set produced by the English Playing Card Society to mark its tenth birthday. Seventy-two sets were printed, and each gold-edged pack costs £90. The fronts, including the "pips", of all 52 cards depict nursery rhyme scenes.

Major Welsh has a similar project in mind to mark his retirement from running the society, which he plans for the millennium. "This time I hope the set will depict famous Bath scenes and historical characters. I am planning it already as the design needs a great deal of organisation and time," he says.

When members of the society want to have a pack valued they generally go to Major Welsh because of his experience. "Putting a price on a pack is a difficult process," he says. "This is partly because in the past English playing cards were regarded by some collectors as the poor relations of some of the more exotic and earlier packs produced in France and Belgium.

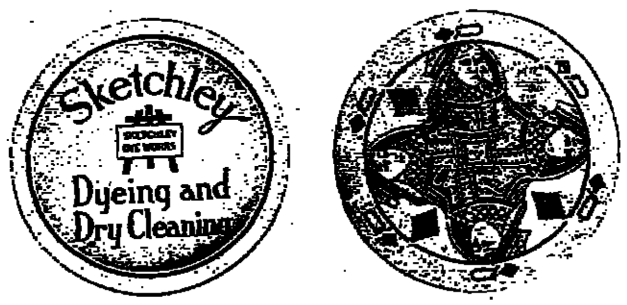
"I am currently involved in a postal auction for a very rare pack — one of the first standard packs produced by Thomas de la Rue and Company in 1832. It is likely to fetch several hundred pounds. Generally, it is only when someone decides to sell a collection that it is possible to see in any breadth what others are prepared to pay."

Sylvia Mann, who died late last year, was an English playing card expert and the author of several books on the subject. In accordance with her wishes, her collection of several thousand cards is to be split up and sold by auction and by private treaty some time this year.

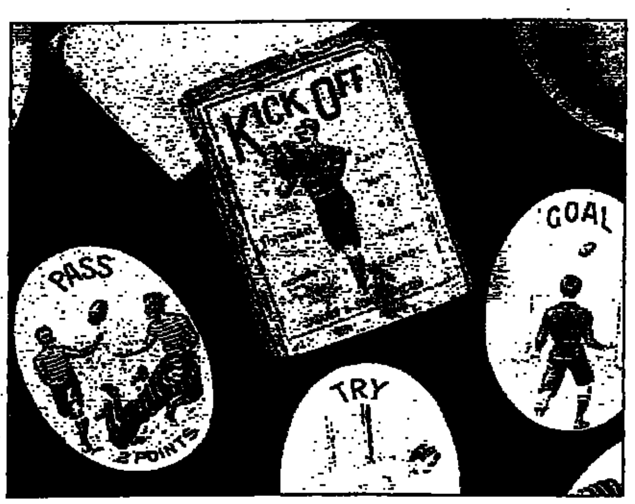
When Major Welsh dies he would like his cards to go to a museum. Better still, if he could gain the finance, he would like to open a museum in Bath devoted to playing cards. "I should like to share my enthusiasm with as many people as possible," he says. "Playing cards provide such a wonderful insight into our social history."

CLIVE FEWINS

● *The English Playing Card Society, Major Donald Welsh, Bath (01225) 465218.*



Circular playing cards issued by Sketchley in the 1930s



Box of oval playing cards showing rugby game, 1900

FACT FILE

☐ A leaflet on English playing cards can be obtained by writing to The Worshipful Company of Playing Card Manufacturers at 6 The Priory, Godstone, Surrey, RH9 8NL.

☐ The International Playing Card Society is at 43 Templars Crescent, London N3 3QR (0181-349 2207).

☐ Where to see collections: The Victoria & Albert Museum, Kensington, west London; The Print Room at the Guildhall Library at the Guildhall in Gresham Street, London EC2; the Bodleian Library, Oxford.

SALEROOM

☐ **Bonhams**'s 20th-century furniture sale today offers many design classics. A 1932 aluminium chair by Marcel Breuer, who trained with Walter Gropius at the Bauhaus, the legendary German architecture and design group, is estimated at £1,800 to £2,400; and a 1935 "long chair" at £3,000 to £4,000.

☐ The private collection of 40 novelty walking sticks for sale at **Bonhams** on Monday provides a history of this ambulatory aid from the 17th century. Some are topped with animal heads carved from ivory, others double as tobacco pipes (£70 to £1,500).

☐ Fans of Dame Joan Sutherland are in for a treat on Thursday when **Sotheby's** offers some of her stage wardrobe. A 1840s-style ruched burgundy velvet gown by Zeffirelli that she wore as Violetta at Covent Garden could fetch £1,500.

☐ The National Lottery is nothing new, as **Phillips** shows in its banknotes and scripophily sale on Thursday. The star lot is a poster (estimate £80 to £100) advertising the English State Lottery of 1786, when the prize was £500,000, a bigger sum at that time than the highest win yet in the National Lottery of £17.8 million.

☐ Brightly coloured posters for the Monte Carlo Grand Prix in the 1930s are highlights of **Christie's South Kensington**'s 19th and 20th-century posters sale on Thursday, featuring Bugattis, Alfa Romeos and Mercedes-Benzes speeding around the circuit, with the city, harbour and mountains as the backdrop. Prices from £2,500 to £3,500.

● *Bonhams, Montpelier Street, London SW7 (0171-393 3900); Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (0171-581 7611); Phillips, 101 New Bond Street, London W1 (0171-629 6602); Sotheby's 34 New Bond Street, London W1 (0171-493 8080).*

SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

THE TIMES

Elephant walk: on safari in Zimbabwe, where lions also roam free

Save on an African safari

Book an adventure holiday from a selection of exciting tours to far-away destinations and *The Times* brings you a special 20p bonus. For the price of Britain's greatest newspaper, you may be entitled to a second holiday—a weekend for two in Paris, Amsterdam, Seville, Barcelona, Vienna, Madrid or Istanbul.

You can book your 20p weekend if your holiday costs at least £750 per person (full brochure price). Or you can opt for a discount of 20 per cent off your main holiday's brochure price.

To take advantage of this promotion you must collect four of the 16 tokens which are appearing each day until Monday.

You could spend your holiday spotting lions and visiting the game parks and beaches of East Africa. African Decker Safaris are the only African overland operators to use the Deckerhome, which combines transport with living accommodation in one secure vehicle. Their six-week Southern Explorer safari passes through Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe. It costs from £895 to £945 (£716 to £756 with the 20% discount), plus £165 for food which is bought locally.

For the active outdoor enthusiast and nature lover, Carrier Tours' Zimbabwe Explorer is a camping safari which takes in Hwange, Chizarira, Matusadona and three days' canoeing down the Zambezi. It costs from £1,580 (£1,264 with discount). Carrier's eight-day Wings Over The Delta safari follows the routes of the bounty hunters of old, starting at the Victoria Falls and ending at Maun in Botswana. It costs from £2,795 (£2,236 with discount).

These are just some of the wide range of holidays, cruises and adventure tours available at a discount or with the added bonus of a 20p weekend break. For further details ring our hotline on 01369-707711. You will receive a comprehensive information pack.

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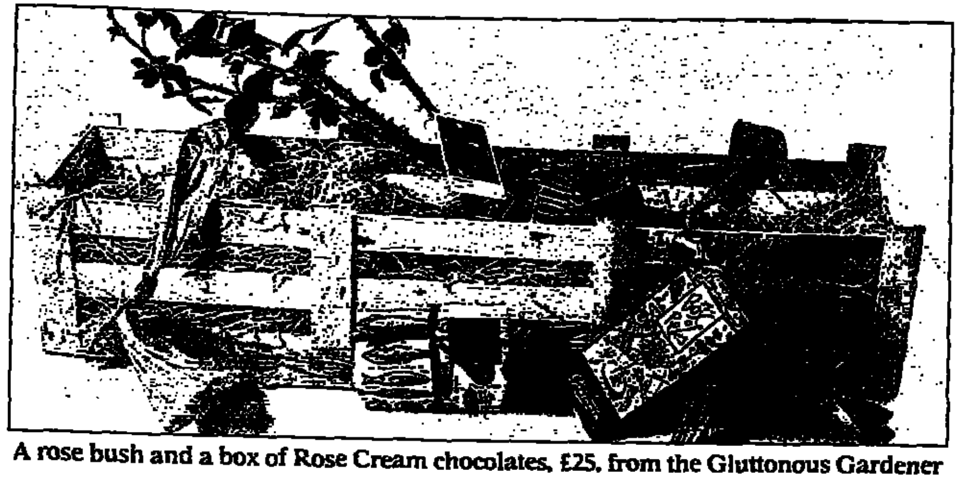
Love is: hearts, giraffes, a yellow cab...

...or indulge your loved one with champagne-filled hampers, roses and a real heavenly body



A rose bush and a box of Rose Cream chocolates, £25, from the Gluttonous Gardener

It's hearts and flowers time again and the shops are full of love tokens. To ease your choice of a perfect passion-fanner I have found not only traditional gifts, but also the unusual, the eternal and things to do to celebrate your love. This Valentine's Day, why not give your partner *Love Letters: An Anthology of Passion* by Michelle Lovric (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £14.99), a beautifully illustrated collection of eloquent love letters from the great and the good through the centuries, with envelopes containing facsimile letters.

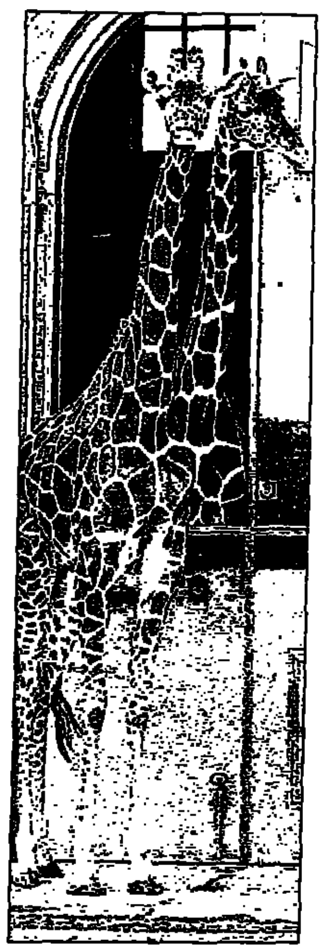
And while sighing over the romance of it all, the reader will need sustenance, probably of a sweet nature. Try Marks and Spencer Luxury Chocolate Assortment (£4.99), packed in a red heart-shaped box, or go to Charbonnel et Walker for strawberry truffles (8oz, £12.50).

If you're reading *à deux*, the *Tête-à-Tête* Valentine's Basket from The House of Albert Roux is the ideal gastronomic accessory. The satin-lined basket contains two half bottles of Mumm, two crystal champagne glasses, red and black caviare pâté, chocs and pâtés de fruits (£85 plus £10 delivery).

For a traditional token, look at Baccarat's red crystal heart paperweight (£58) and pendant (£53), from the General Trading Company, or Marks and Spencer's Dried Rose potpourri (£5).

For the "flowers" part of "hearts and flowers" call the Gluttonous Gardener, be it for a romantic gesture or a thorny reminder to an ex. The Box of Roses (£25 plus £5 delivery anywhere in the UK) consists of a ready-to-plant scented rose bush and a box of Rose Cream chocolates from Rococo; Say It With Spikes (£15 plus £5) is a virtually indestructible cactus in a terracotta pot.

If you want something floral that doesn't need looking after, consider Aromatique's freeze-dried scented roses: a 200g box of rose heads and leaves costs £30, a box of three long-stemmed roses £10. For something that will last for generations, try "Say It With A Tree". Heritage Conserved, a non-profit-making organisation dedicated to replacing our woodlands, will sell you a plot of land in the Marches (around the Wales/Shropshire border) on which it will plant the broadleaf tree of your choice from a list of 12 (prices from £25). The recipient will get a decorated freehold Deed with a personal inscription, a Certificate of Title and a map showing the exact location of the tree. Each plot has an identification marker for visiting freeholders.



Adopt a pair of giraffes at London Zoo, £1,500 a year

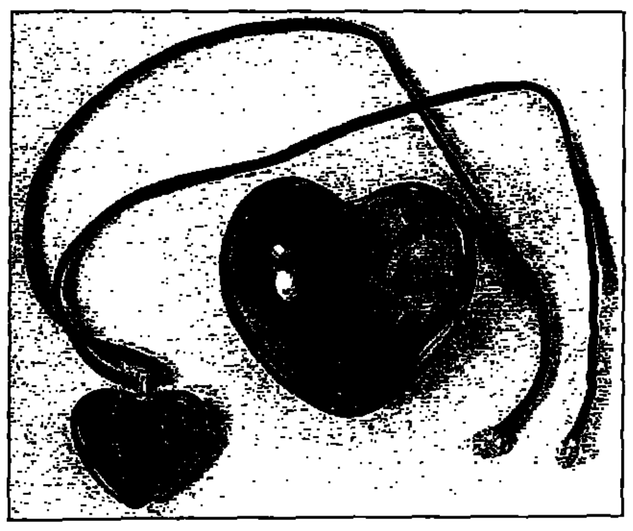
You can also adopt a couple at London Zoo for a year: giraffes for £1,500; a pair of preening peacocks for £40; or a single black widow spider for £20. The adopter will be named on the Adoption Board at the zoo and will receive a special Valentine's gift pack.

For enjoyable returns, rent your true love a row of vines in France. 3-D Wines can arrange your rental in the vineyards of Jean-Paul Ragot (Burgundy) or Gaston Pavy (Loire Valley) for up to five years, at £49 a year. Each row will yield an average of four cases a year, which you can collect (or have delivered at cost) for as little as £3.84 (plus VAT) a bottle. Include a viticulture trip in your present, or get a 3-D gift pack with two bottles of wine (from £68).

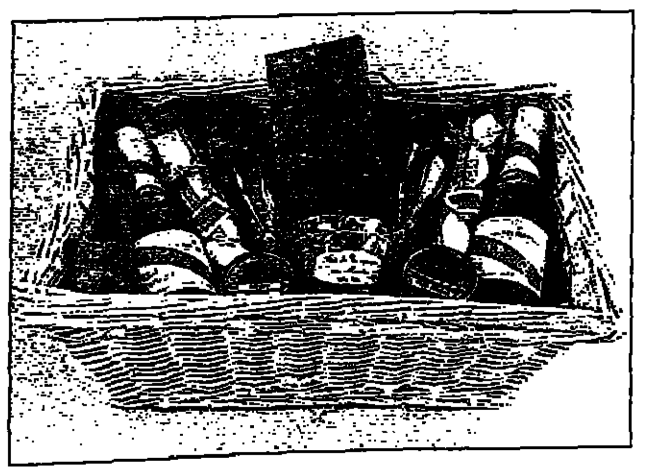
You can even give your *inamorata* the gift of landed gentrification. For £69 you can buy the Batham Gate Estate in the Peak District National Park (well, one square foot of it) through Red Letter Days. The gift pack includes an illuminated Title Deed and a history of the property — it is mentioned in the *Domesday Book*, and is reputed to have a ghostly Roman legion. Or consider renting a cottage from English Country Cottages and visiting the Estate for a romantic weekend.

Finally, the ultimate romantic gift to commemorate eternal love: name a star for your loved one. The International Star Registry will do so for £47.50 and send an illuminated certificate, a plan of the constellation, an astronomical chart showing the exact position of the star and an information sheet. Who could resist such a dramatic gesture?

STEPHANIE LEWIS



Right: crystal pendant, £53; paperweight, £58, the General Trading Co



Above: the Tête-à-Tête Valentine's basket, £85, from Albert Roux offers champagne and caviare

Below: Rose-scented potpourri, £5, from M&S

Left: if your loved one has a sweet tooth, the Luxury Chocolate Assortment, £4.99, from Marks and Spencer, which comes in a red, heart-shaped box, is sure to please

ADVERTISING ARCHIVES

Young love as depicted by Norman Rockwell in 1924. For Valentine's Day this year, rent his studio by the village green in Arlington, Vermont

A VALENTINE'S DAY TO REMEMBER

IF YOU want to spend Valentine's Day doing something a bit different, investigate what's on offer from these companies:

Red Letter Days (0181-343 8822)
On The Day itself, you can have a five-course dinner with champagne, wine, music and orchids on the Orient Express, and a night at the Hampshire Hotel in London (£449 for two); hire a vintage limo, a stretch limo or a New York checker cab for six hours (from £175); take a balloon ride from starting points all over the country (from £129); spend the morning learning to play polo at Ascot (£159); or charter a light aircraft and fly to Le Touquet for the day (price on application). Red Letter Days specialise in the glamorous and wild, from bungee jumping to flying a Russian jet fighter near Moscow.

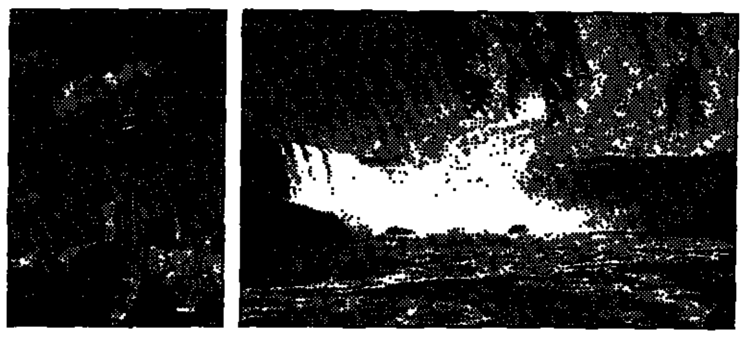
Acorn (01432 830083)
If you want to escape the city, get Acorn's brochure and head for the Welsh Marches. Enjoy a day's falconry (£70); learn to plough a straight furrow with a Shire horse (two hours, £60); spend a day improving your drawing or painting skills (£35); or blow away the cobwebs on a quad bike, a four-wheeled off-road vehicle (half-day trek £50). Acorn also offers equestrian holidays, sports and craft courses.

English Country Cottages: (Tel: 01328 851155)
Snuggle up to an open fire at the 17th-century thatched Martin's Cottage in West Sussex (one week £226, self-catering). Nest in The Gate House at Strachur, Argyll, with an open fire, a six-foot bed and Loch Fyne just across the road for aphrodisiac oysters (one week, £200, self-catering). Or jet off to New England and Norman Rockwell's studio by the village green at Arlington, Vermont (two weeks self-catering, £1,115 per person including flights and car hire). Weekend breaks are also available, with a wide choice of cottages.

Where to buy

- ☐ *3-D Wines: 01205 820745.*
- ☐ *Aromatique: 0181-813 9091 for stockists.*
- ☐ *Charbonnel et Walker: 1 The Royal Arcade, Old Bond Street, London W1 (0171-491 0939).*
- ☐ *The General Trading Company: 144 Sloane Street, London, SW1 (0171-730 0411).*
- ☐ *The Gluttonous Gardener: 82 Wandsworth Bridge Road, London, SW6 (0171-371 0775).*
- ☐ *Heritage Conserved: 0691 648749.*
- ☐ *The House of Albert Roux: 229 Ebury Street, London, SW1 (0171-730 4175).*
- ☐ *London Zoo: 0171-586 4443*
- ☐ *Marks and Spencer: branches nationwide.*
- ☐ *International Star Registry: (Freephone) 0800 212493.*

THE TIMES
TRAVEL OFFER



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Robin Williams in *Mrs Doubtfire*: a more hilarious version of Anne Fine's 1987 novel

Broken hearts, broken homes

Maureen Owen meets Anne Fine, whose novels tell of the experiences of the wounded children of divorce

"You've got my dad now," said one junior-school child to another as they converged on the playground. As a well-known and much sought-after children's author, Anne Fine visits more schools than an inspector, her eyes and ears constantly pricked for the telling phrase. "What struck me about the remark," she says, "is that it was made without irony. Of course, the dad in question may only have been a stepfather. But, as a comment, it had implications."

These implications have fuelled her new book, *Step by Wicked Step*, in which an ill-assorted group of children are taken on a school trip to a creepy old manor house. The five selected are in a "special category". They could be vegetarians, or allergic to wasp stings, or non-swimmers. But what Pixie, Robbo, Claudia, Colin and Ralph really have in common is two emergency telephone numbers: two homes, two families. They belong to that all-too-familiar category, children from broken homes.

After finding a hidden letter relating the experiences of a boy long dead who was driven from the house by a wicked stepfather, the group draw together to compare their own family backgrounds. The case histories involved are about confusion rather than cruelty, uncertainty rather than anything from the welfare files. Unlike the wicked stepfather

■ STEP BY WICKED STEP
By Anne Fine
Hamish Hamilton, £9.99

in the story, there are no goodies or baddies among the assorted parents and step-parents, just different aspects of confusion as the modern step-family tries to adjust.

"Once it was death that split the family," Fine says. "Now it's divorce."

At 47, Fine is clearly no Beatrix Potter. Garlanded with awards for children's fiction — from the Carnegie medal to the Smarties prize — she has also won substantial success with the film of *Mrs Doubtfire*, followed by the bestselling video. First published in 1987 as *Madame Doubtfire*, the story deals with the effects of impending divorce on three children. With Robin Williams's drag-act performance as the estranged father, the film is considerably more hilarious than the book, in which the sensible children are alert to everything.

Fine specialises in both the darker and lighter sides of divorce. In her books — she has been writing for 24 years — the children live as happily as possible ever after but have few illusions.

Not surprisingly, some adults are uncomfortable with the novels, finding such themes dismal and gloomy. Many parents prefer to stick with stories by Enid Blyton, Roald Dahl and Richmal Crompton. "I love escapism," Fine says. "But if I started writing boarding-school stories, I'd only begin wondering why the children had been sent away from home."

Her letters from children sometimes contain unexpected anecdotes. After reading *Goggle Eyes*, about a girl who hates her new stepfather, a boy in a similar situation wrote that he resented becoming responsible for dragging his younger sister away from unsuitable programmes on late-night television.

With the film money from *Doubtfire*, Fine has bought a plot of land adjoining her house overlooking the River Tees. "I loathe shopping so I am not tempted to spend on other things." A graduate of Warwick University, where she read politics and history, she had two daughters by her husband Kit Fine, a philosopher, before divorcing. For the past ten years she has lived with Richard Warren, a botanist, who also has children of his own. She was incensed when a newspaper reported that they were married. "It caused all sorts of problems." She stipulates that from now on in interviews, her personal life should remain her own.

The trouble with a wall of silence is that those on the other side can only speculate. In the case of Fine, you are left supposing that her personal life has given her plenty of writing material.

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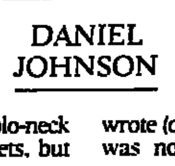
Polo neck or monkey suit, what do an author's garments say about him?



DANIEL JOHNSON

The Whitbread Book of the Year dinner last week was a black-tie affair, as literary prize-givings usually are — less for the sake of the writers, who often look and feel absurd in evening dress, than for the *business guests, for whom these* occasions are a form of corporate entertainment. At last year's Booker Prize dinner, the winner, James Kelman, ostentatiously ignored the dress code and spoke to camera with tie loosened and collar unbuttoned. His appearance, I thought, was more eloquent than his anti-Booker speech.

At the Whitbread I found myself talking to two old friends: James Fenton, Professor of Poetry at Oxford and one of the five finalists, and his guest, the American novelist Darryl Pinckney. Both were conspicuous in smart but informal dress, and the Whitbread organisers must have wondered whether Fenton was going to put them in their place *à la* Kelman.

Pat Kavanagh, distinguished literary agent and wife of Julian Barnes, came over. She looked magnificent: dressed to kill (former clients had better beware) in a glittering evening gown. She quickly congratulated Fenton and Pinckney on their gesture, adding: "Julian now won't go to occasions where they tell him what to wear." "Well," said Pinckney, "I'm afraid James just forgot to read the fine print of the invitation."

Long ago, most writers liked to dress formally. Public conviviality has always implied dressing up, and writers have always been social animals: Plato's *Symposium* may be the first recorded literary dinner party *in history, but they* were evidently no novelty even then. For many centuries intellectuals found their patrons at court, among the aristocracy or in the Church, so their dress tended to reflect the formality of royal, noble or ecclesiastical attire.

With the growth of the middle-class readership, however, writers could adopt bourgeois fashions, or even set them. Goethe's epistolary novel *Werther* started a craze in the 1770s not only for suicides but also for blue coats and buff waistcoats. Ever since Beau Brummel made modish the monochrome of the modern male, writers have willingly adopted it — even the most dandified or bohemian.

Grey and black, of course, denote gravitas. Many modern writers — Brecht, Beckett, Pinter — have preferred grey military tunics or black polo-neck jerseys to suits or dinner jackets, but theirs are variations on the same monochrome uniform, chosen with care to give precise expression to a strong and serious personality. Clothes are too important in fiction to be neglected in life.

There have always been a few writers, though, who loathed society and disowned the intellectuals who conformed to its conventions by *sartorial self-expression*. St Mark had no time for the glitterati of his day: "Beware of the scribes, which love to go in long clothing, and love salutations in the marketplaces ..." For them, clothes are functional and of no significance.

These thoughts have been prompted by a novel I have just read: one of those books that I had looked forward to for years but the enjoyment of which I had inexplicably postponed. The eponymous hero of Vladimir Nabokov's *The Luzhin Defence* proved to be a distillation of every chess master I have ever known. Luzhin's life is so dedicated to chess, the only occupation that gives it meaning, that the rest of the world gradually ceases to exist for him.

It is extraordinary that this, the first great novel he wrote (during his Berlin exile in 1929), was not translated until 1964, and even now has only just been republished here in paperback (Penguin, £6.99), with an afterword by John Updike. In his foreword, Nabokov wryly mentions an interested American publisher in the 1930s who turned out to be the type "who dreams of becoming a male muse to his author, and our brief conjunction ended abruptly upon his suggesting I replace chess by music and make Luzhin a demented violinist".

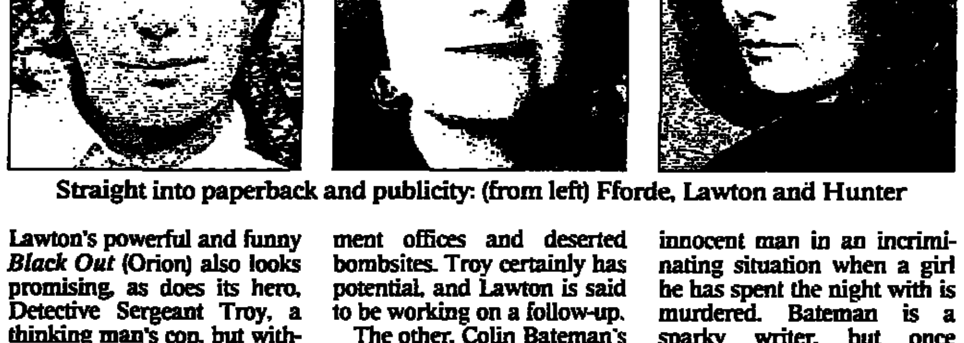
One of the most striking of many recurrent themes running through the novel is the shabby sobriety of the adult Luzhin's clothes. He is always in black, stout, dusty and threadbare, his pockets always full of holes, on his heavy head a shapeless black hat or a battered straw boater. When he plays he wears a velvet waistcoat. A young woman, whose name we are never told, is deeply touched by his seediness, and looks after him when he suffers a nervous breakdown. Once he has recovered, he is obliged by the doctors to renounce chess. After their marriage, she takes him to the tailor to improve his appearance, but he clings to a comfortable old jacket that his wife wants to throw out.

Inside the torn lining lurks a pocket chess set, which Nabokov tells us was his own. It is of a type popular between the wars: a wallet which opens into a chessboard, with celluloid pieces that slip into little slits in each square. On this object hinges the denouement of the novel, which I shall certainly not reveal here.

The point I wish to make about Luzhin is that Nabokov uses his clothes and the contents of his pockets as the visible indicator of his invisible mental torment. Though he takes no notice of them. Luzhin's clothes are as much part of him as his skin; to remove them is, in a sense, to flay him alive. Without his outer skin, he cannot survive.

Hazel Leslie previews the work of the authors singled out for stardom for their 'fresh talent'

W. H. Smith whips up six of the best



Straight into paperback and publicity: (from left) Fforde, Lawton and Hunter

In the labs at W. H. Smith, the marketing boffins have been struggling once again to isolate that elusive Factor X that distinguishes a useful author from a budding bestseller.

Each year WHS selects six first novelists with "real bestselling potential". Under the banner "Fresh Talent", the happy six are vigorously promoted and published straight into paperback at £4.99. The label sounds literary, but sales are what it is really all about — especially since WHS is pledged to buy at least 10,000 of each title.

On that basis, I back this year's American outsider, Gwen Hunter, whose *Stolen Children* (New English Library), a story of murder and incest among the grand mansions and rotting shanties of the country south of New Orleans, grabs you by the throat with its first sentence and finally releases you, drained and shaking, on page 390. Though this novel bucks some psychological questions, Hunter's writing has that compulsive quality that spells bestsellerdom.

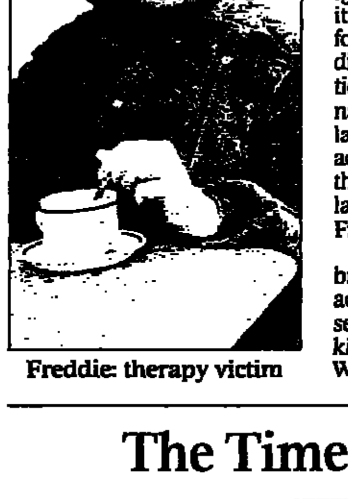
Of the two thrillers, John Lawton's powerful and funny *Black Out* (Orion) also looks promising, as does its hero, Detective Sergeant Troy, a thinking man's cop, but without the unbearable pretensions of some of his kind. Set in the London Blitz, it sucks you into its own entirely convincing world of bull-nosed Morrises, dank basement offices and deserted bombsites. Troy certainly has potential, and Lawton is said to be working on a follow-up.

The other, Colin Bateman's *Divorcing Jack* (HarperCollins), is set in Belfast, where Dan Starkey, drunken and laconically humorous columnist of a Belfast newspaper, finds himself an innocent man in an incriminating situation when a girl he has spent the night with is murdered. Bateman is a sparky writer, but once Starkey becomes a target, the plot spirals off into a series of coincidences and calamities that I found as confusing as the political situation.

At the all-important Aga saga end of the market, *The Marriage Bed* (Sceptre), by gardening writer Diana Saville, tells the story of Laura — middle-aged, middle-class, and reassuringly reading *Country Life* when we first meet her. Laura's safe world crashes when her husband loses his money, and we are supposed to draw some conclusions about the way she deals with all this. But there is little inner development — the ravishing garden is really the heroine of this novel.

Katie's Fforde's *Living Dangerously* (Penguin) has more fun with the genre via her heroine Polly, aspiring potter and waitress in a small Gloucestershire town. Polly is an unwilling recruit to the green wellie ranks, afford[illegible] some acute and funny observations of the social scene. You would think twice before inviting Fforde to dinner.

Norma Curtis's *Living it Up, Living it Down* (HarperCollins) is a sharp look at a group of relentlessly self-interested yuppies struggling towards self-awareness. But I felt Curtis did not care for her characters very much, and neither could I.



Freddie: therapy victim

Unsuitable boy

■ FREDDIE THE WEAVER — The boy who fought to join the world
By Mark Frankland
Sinclair-Stevenson, £16.99

IN the spring of 1968, I was a teenager leading a happy life in Kent. Unknown to me then, a few miles away a young man of 22 called Freddie was being admitted to Bexley mental hospital. I would still be ignorant of his existence were it not for a rare piece of good fortune in Freddie's otherwise difficult existence — his adoption as a baby by an extraordinary woman, Olivia Frankland, and through her the acquisition of a step-brother, the journalist Mark Frankland, who has chosen to tell Freddie and Olivia's story.

Olivia lost her beloved brother Freddie in a riding accident in Australia; then her second husband, Sam, was killed in the Second World War. Friends suggested a baby would heal her loneliness, so she set out to adopt; by the time the papers were complete, she was also married again, to Mark's divorced father. But her beautiful blond baby was a puzzle. By the age of three he was aggressive and flew into rages. He screeched and made noises, but would not talk; was detached and unaffectionate; refused most normal food but developed a habit of eating paper.

So Olivia set off on a round of London's child specialists, and thus began what Frankland calls her "torture" — for Freddie was autistic, at a time when the diagnosis was virtually non-existent.

Even today, Frankland says, the chief British textbook on paediatrics has only one sentence on autism; little surprise, then, that the indefatigable Olivia had to fight all her life through the labyrinths of both mainstream and complementary medicine for recognition and treatment for the son who came to obsess her.

Olivia herself was always giving in to temporary enthusiasms for doctors and their latest remedies — she was once persuaded to have all her teeth extracted to cure her sinus trouble — and so Freddie passed from the hands of one orthodoxy to another: from the cosmic theories of central Europeans pioneering brilliant but potentially dangerous postwar child psychoanalysis, to the now condemned brutality of psychosurgery; from enlightened care by the saintly co-workers of the Camphill movement in Scotland to soul-destroying drug therapy; from forcible incarceration in Bexley to warm-hearted revolutionaries bent on empowering the mentally ill.

Olivia died in 1987, passing guardianship of Freddie to her stepson Mark. Freddie's odyssey has ended, for now, in a small West Country residential home, where Frankland visits him and takes him for walks by the railway. I wonder if Freddie knows he has been written about — if he has seen the book with his picture on the cover, a dark-haired man with a sweet round face and sad eyes, stirring tea at a café table, looking at the camera without expression. I would like to think he tried to eat a page.

SALLY BAKER

The Times / Dillons Bestsellers

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2	FREE TO TRADE **Michael Ridpath** *(Heinemann)*	£10	0	1
3	THE PRIVATE LIFE OF PLANTS **David Attenborough** *(BBC)*	£17.99	2	3
4	THE CRUSADES **Terry Jones** *(BBC)*	£17.99	5	2
5	WRITING HOME **Alan Bennett** *(Faber)*	£17.50	3	13
6	LONG WALK TO FREEDOM **Nelson Mandela** *(Little Brown)*	£20	4	5
7	INSOMNIA **Stephen King** *(Hodder)*	£15.99	7	8
8	GEOFF HAMILTON'S COTTAGE GARDENS **Geoff Hamilton** *(BBC)*	£18.99	10	2
9	BATTLE FLAG **Bernard Cornwell** *(HarperCollins)*	£9.99	6	3
10	THE ART BOOK: VISUAL DOCUMENTARY *(Phaidon)*	£19.99	0	2

PAPERBACK

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2	INTERVIEW WITH THE VAMPIRE **Anne Rice** *(Warner)*	£4.99	6	3
3	MISS SMILLA'S FEELING FOR SNOW **Peter Høeg** *(Flamingo)*	£5.99	11	13
4	OTHER PEOPLE'S MARRIAGES **Rosie Thomas** *(Penguin)*	£5.99	3	3
5	COMPLICITY **Iain Banks** *(Abacus)*	£6.99	19	18
6	DECIDER **Dick Francis** *(Pan)*	£4.99	9	5
7	STARGATE **Sean Devlin** *(Signet)*	£4.99	8	3
8	FLAT STOMACH PLAN **Rosemary Conley** *(Arrow)*	£7.99	2	3
9	THE POWER **Colin Forbes** *(Pan)*	£4.99	13	3
10	BIRDSONG **Sebastian Faulks** *(Vintage)*	£5.99	10	24
11	THE FERMATA **Nicholson Baker** *(Vintage)*	£5.99	18	3
12	CELESTINE PROPHECY **James Redfield** *(Bantam)*	£7.99	0	1
13	THE FIGHTING MAN **Gerald Seymour** *(HarperCollins)*	£4.99	0	3
14	SLOW WALTZ IN CEDAR BEND **Robert James Walker** *(Mandarin)*	£4.99	0	1
15	HIGHWAY CODE *(HMSO)*	£0.99	0	1
16	COPPERHEAD **Bernard Cornwell** *(HarperCollins)*	£4.99	4	2
17	WILD SWANS **Jung Chang** *(Flamingo)*	£7.99	0	34
18	MAGIC EYE I: A NEW WAY OF LOOKING AT THE WORLD *(Penguin)*	£4.99	0	1
19	AGAINST A DARK BACKGROUND **Iain Banks** *(Orbit)*	£5.99	17	3
20	LIFE POINTS **Peter Cox & Peggy Brusseau** *(Bloomsbury)*	£4.99	7	2

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Derwent May
reviews the critics

5/5 *Pleasure ratings are awarded to a maximum of five. Column centimetres indicate the length of reviews to date in national broadsheet papers*

4/5 **Tory hot potato?**: Francis Urquhart, the murderous Tory Prime Minister so memorably played by Ian Richardson on television, is back in *The Final Cut* (HarperCollins, £14.99), the last part of Michael Dobbs's political trilogy. "His readers, if not the Tory party, have reason to be grateful," said David Robson in *The Sunday Telegraph*. Andrew Billen in *The Observer* pointed out Dobbs's peculiar problem: now he himself is the Conservative deputy chairman, how can he plug the authenticity of his novels when "they star power-drunk Tories"? In *The Sunday Times*, Glenda Jackson, MP (Lab), was more analytical. She thought that "Urquhart is used as a mirror against which we are asked to pass favourable judgment on our present Prime Minister" — but she wondered slyly whether "the comparison really does favour Mr Major".
Col cms: 109

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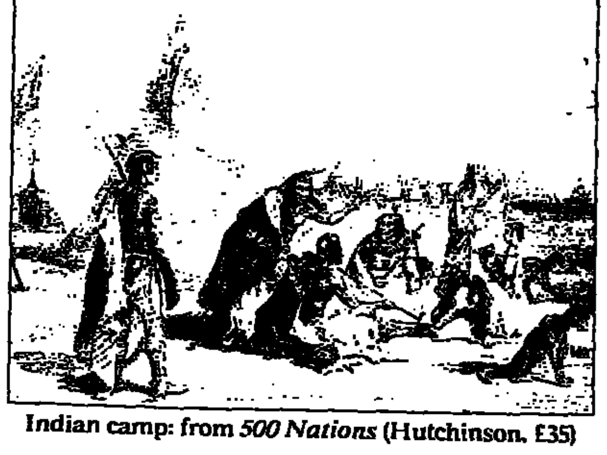

Indian camp: from *500 Nations* (Hutchinson, £35)

■ THE BINGO PALACE
By Louise Erdrich
Flamingo, £5.99

In the fourth novel of her powerful quartet. Louise Erdrich returns to the fertile fictive territory that she has made her own — a Chippewa Native American reservation in North Dakota.

Having obeyed his grandmother's summons to return to the tribe at a time of crisis, a directionless but charismatic young Indian falls passionately in love with a girl he cannot have because she is betrothed to another. His rival is not only the most powerful man on the reservation, but also his uncle, half-brother and boss.

However, this is merely the central strand of a complex plot which explores and brilliantly illuminates the proud, fatalistic soul of a dispossessed people and the potency of ancient beliefs. Different voices take up the story as it leaps lightly from past to present, from the supernatural to the mundane, from a mystic realm of visions, trances and grass dances to the harsh modern world of pick-up trucks, casinos and facism.

Erdrich's prose has a compelling, poetic rhythm which effortlessly carries you wherever she wants you to go. Do not be put off, initially, by the tangled array of characters and references to other books, because you will quickly be drawn into their rich, elemental world.

■ TRAVELS IN A THIN COUNTRY
By Sara Wheeler
Abacus, £6.99

Inspired by a meeting with a Chilean in a swimming pool, Sara Wheeler sets off for Latin America armed only with two carpetbags and a burning curiosity. In six months she travels the 2,600-mile length of Chile, from its glaring deserts to its Antarctic wastes. Her portraits of people met on the way, be they political prisoners in Santiago or descendents of pirates in Juan Fernandez, are at once attractive and interactive. Despite a somewhat self-satisfied tone, Wheeler captures the drama of this varied land.

■ MIDAIR
By Frank Conroy
Penguin, £5.99

Most of these plain, rather terse stories appeared in *The New Yorker* in the 1970s and 80s, but Conroy eludes that magazine's label: his voice is his own. The electric title story traces the effect of a buried moment of terror inflicted by a father on his young son. Another explores the changing nature of a father's love. Two stories are of a supernatural kind, depending on an acceptance of the unbelievable. This is less satisfying than the austere realism of the rest.

■ THE SANDBEETLE
By Zina Rohan
Flamingo, £5.99

Leo Beck is a Jewish boy in 1930s Berlin. This novel takes him as a refugee to an eccentric couple in England; to Oxford as a medical student, to Australia as a deported "enemy alien", and back to England again. Obsessed since childhood with the camouflage technique of the chameleon, he finds a similar resourcefulness in the sandbeetle of the Australian deserts. Rohan portrays Leo's own resourceful adaptations with humour, pity and affection.

■ HENRY PURCELL: Glory of His Age
By Margaret Campbell
Oxford University Press, £8.99

Admitting in her preface that very little is known about Purcell's private life, Campbell compensates superbly by setting the composer vividly in his social and artistic context. Born into a family of "musicians to His Majesty", Purcell was a choirboy in the Chapel Royal at the time of the Great Fire and remained court musician to successive eccentric monarchs, who often forgot to pay him. But his contempories recognised his genius and by the time he died, aged 37 (his 300th anniversary falls later this year), he was widely revered as "a very great Master of Musick". This scholarly work paints a fascinating portrait of Purcell's world and incudes a controversial redating of his opera *Dido and Aeneas*.

● *Contributors: Nicki Household, Mary Sullivan, Rachel Campbell-Johnston*

Heather Neill finds a folk tale at the heart of Isaac Singer's posthumous novel

A chuckle at God's comedy

■ MESHUGAH
By Isaac Bashevis Singer
Translated by the author and Nili Wachtel
Hamish Hamilton, £15.99

GOD, thinks Aaron Greidinger, is a novelist. The narrator and chief character of Isaac Bashevis Singer's posthumously published novel, *Meshugah*, is himself a writer, publishing stories serially in a New York Yiddish newspaper, the *Jewish Daily Forward*, and dispensing agony-uncle advice through its columns and on the radio. He imagines the Almighty on high, laughing at his own comedy acted out by human players. Greidinger/Singer has something of the same amused detachment: even at the most serious moments a smile flickers in the prose.

Set mainly in New York in 1952, *Meshugah*, (the Yiddish for crazy, insane) focuses on survivors of the Holocaust whose interdependence creates "a small shtetle", the chief preoccupation of which is spreading gossip. One day, the large-than-life Max Aberdam bursts into Greidinger's office. Sixty-seven years old, a Warsaw hustler, "glutton, guzzler, womaniser", his survival is so unexpected it is as if he has returned from the dead. He introduces the 47-year-old Greidinger to his young mistress, Miriam, and soon she is equally passionately involved with both men. The arrangement is amicable and survives the melodramas which ensue.

For Greidinger and his closest friends, a visit to the newly-established state of Israel provides both a sense of homecoming and a jolt: Yiddish, the language of the European oppressed, is frowned upon and Greidinger, despite his celebrity, faces criticism. It is here that Miriam's darkest secret, her role in the death camp of Stutthof, is revealed. Greidinger's initial reaction is physical — he vomits — but he nevertheless pities her.

There is a sense throughout of searching for a new moral code, a way to take up life again after the unthinkable events in Nazi-dominated Europe. Greidinger, too, is casting about for fulfilment in his professional life.

If Greidinger is not precisely Singer, there are deliberate parallels. *Meshugah* was itself, according to Singer's custom, serialised in the *Forward*, between 1981 and 1983. Greidinger is a Polish Jew, the same age as Singer was in 1952 and the son of a rabbi. There is even reference to two Singer characters as if they were Greidinger creations.

One of the preoccupations of the book is the novelist's role (Greidinger favours "action, suspense, imagery", the style of Homer and the Bible rather than of Proust, Joyce or Kafka), especially that of the Jewish novelist who chooses to write in Yiddish and refuses to sentimentalise his characters, however much they have suffered, even if such honesty attracts charges of fuelling anti-Semitism.

This is a sad, wise, funny, sophisticated book, with the directness of a folk tale.

Big bucks in the market

■ FREE TO TRADE
By Michael Ridpath
Heinemann, £10

THE concept of the "blockbuster, million-earning bestseller" has become so universally accepted that many people forget that dozens of well-crafted works of popular fiction are published each year, while many famous names write rubbish.

Publishers are constantly on the lookout for the next money-spinner and are aware that the public can be conned by big advances. Nothing succeeds like success: publicise a mega-fee and the tabloid press and television automatically promote your man to mega-stardom, often before a word of his opus has been published.

This was certainly the case for Michael Ridpath, whose personal story might have been plotted with the tabloid press in mind: "tragic yuppie makes bomb out of book". Ridpath's yarn about dirty dealing in the City was toured by his agent as the best first novel she had ever read. It made headlines when Heinemann signed the publishing deal not just because of the hefty advance (reputedly more than £250,000) but because the tragedy of his wife's death in childbirth automatically tugged at tabloid readers' heartstrings.

The fact is, however, that Ridpath's book really is rather good. This is *Bonfire of the Vanities* with attitude. It starts smart and gets slicker. The opening is guaranteed to inspire immediate enthusiasm: "I had lost half a million dollars in slightly less than half an hour and the coffee machine didn't work. This was turning into a bad day."

Ridpath: smart and slick

Even though Ridpath does not quite manage to keep up this Chandleresque patter, his writing is snappy enough to keep the pages turning. His language is spartan, economical, written in the sort of sentences one might expect on the telephone from a bond dealer in a hurry. His characters are neatly drawn — unusual for a first timer, and in stark contrast to the cardboard cutouts in the operas of some established million-earning scribblers.

I found Rob, every office's patent mix of Romeo and Lothario, particularly convincing, but also appreciated the soft-spoken, calculating character of Hamilton, the hero's mentor on the markets, and the insufferable American, "Cash" Callaghan. Joe Finlay, the maverick dealer with a penchant for stubbing cigarettes out on cab driver's necks, is a credibly chilling study in abstract violence.

Ridpath's forte is that his inside experience makes the computerised violence done daily on the screens of bond-market dealers both as accessible and as adrenalin-charging as the physical stuff. The only real question mark hanging over this book is whether he has another subject in him: can he do it again?

PETER MILLAR

Rastaman vibrations

PUBLISHED to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Jamaican star's birth, *Bob Marley: Songs of Freedom* (Bloomsbury, £25) is a handsome celebration of the performer who brought reggae into the mainstream of rock. Marley's potent blend of rhythm, resistance and Rastafarian religion — politics you could dance to, music you could smoke — spoke equally to old hippies and young punks, to South African township rebels and (if Sir Teddy Taylor is anything to go by) British Tory parliamentarians.

Remarkably, that crossover success, probably unmatched by any black performer before or since, was achieved without apparent compromise. In his native Jamaica, Marley attained a stature that enabled him to transcend the country's devastating political violence, though not before he had survived an assassination attempt in 1976. At a peace concert in April 1978 he brought together on stage the country's rival party leaders, Michael Manley and Edward Seaga (above). Internationally, his reputation as a focus of black aspirations has grown since his death from cancer in 1981.

Destined to grace radical coffee tables everywhere, this collaboration between rock journalist Chris Salewicz and Adrian Boot, who for many years was Marley's semi-offical photographer, demonstrates Marley's enduring appeal but makes no serious attempt to account for it. The text, thanks perhaps to the influence of the star's widow, Rita Marley, as "Executive Editor" veers between the hagiographical and the idolatrous. But the pictures are fabulous, and the music will do the rest.

IAN BRUNSKILL

Luton's own gumshoe

Marcel Berlins

walks the mean,

or at least the

high, streets

■ BORN GUILTY
By Reginald Hill
HarperCollins, £14.99

JOE Sixsmith is a black private eye operating in Luton. I repeat, Luton. He has a nagging aunt trying to marry him off, an unpleasant cat and the usual portmanteau of hang-ups that no detective can do without.

This does not seem promising. Indeed it is almost perverse of Reginald Hill to choose such apparently bland terrain, so very far from the comfortable Yorkshire of his much loved and lauded novels featuring the police partnership Pascoe and Dalziel. Lesser crime writers would have made an embarrassing hash of it. Hill carries it off.

Sixsmith, scuttling away from choir practice, comes across a cardboard box occupied by the body of an unknown youth. His co-finder, a formidable woman with a questionable past, demands that he discovers the deceased's identify. He is hired to find out whether or not a flamboyant punk girl's granddad was a Ukrainian war criminal; and a dynamic lefty lawyerette wants him to look into the busy extramural life of a glamorous schoolteacher married to the local chief inspector. Busy place, Luton.

Our hero is an amiable slob, his successes coming as much from luck and hanging around his local, the Glit (short for Gary Glitter), as from brilliant detection. His various investigations meander along entertainingly, without too many fireworks but never losing their grip.

For at least two decades Hill has been one of Britain's most consistently excellent crime novelists, denied greater public acclaim only because, inexplicably, his books have not been translated to television. He pays attention to the old-fashioned virtues: meticulous plotting, authentic characterisation and realistic dialogue. He has, too, a wonderful feel for the absurd, the comic and the off-beat. *Born Guilty*, the second Sixsmith book, shows that class will out, even in Luton.

TIMES BOOKS

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Old man befriends girl student — where's the harm?

Psycho with a pension

■ THE LAST GIRL
By Penelope Evans
Black Swan, £5.99

PENELOPE Evans's first novel threatens to do for the lodging houses of north London what *Psycho* did for motels. She also manages to deal a serious blow to the cause of lonely pensioners waiting at home in the hopes the neighbours will drop in.

Harry Mann has been a sitting tenant for nearly 50 years in the top flat of a house in Holloway. Downstairs are the landlady, Ethel Duck, and her invalid husband. Into the flat in between moves Amanda Tyson, a tongue-tied student, newly arrived from Edinburgh.

The story is told from Harry's point of view. He takes one look at Mandy, as he quickly starts to call her, and knows thay are going to be friends. She tries to resist. She protests she has work to do. She remonstrates as the gifts he leaves in her kitchen escalate from bowls of fruit to clock radios. She tries to tiptoe in and out, but he can hear her every move.

These are overtures of friendship akin to Hitler's move on Poland. Harry knows what his Mandy needs: to be his alone. And he will use any means.

Amanda is a perfect victim. Her parents live in Hong Kong. She had some kind of breakdown earlier in her university career and now has an eating disorder. London is her chance to start again, make some friends. Too bad she moved in at the Duck's. Too bad she is well brought up and sympathetic, a sucker for an elderly neighbour abandoned long ago by his wife and daughter and like her, alone in the world.

This book is a skilful exercise in suspense, but its feet never leave the ground. The market stalls and dingy emporia of Holloway Road are always round the corner. Amanda's road to hell is paved with Angel Delight and fig rolls. Even the chilling denouement is unleashed by an over-indulgence in novelty liqueurs. Sad, funny and frightening, *The Last Girl* is a very clever first novel.

ROSE WILD

Doughty: flair for set pieces

Making a drama of office drudgery

■ CRAZY PAVING
By Louise Doughty
Touchstone, £9.99

PLAYWRIGHT, theatre critic, journalist, Louise Doughty is a person of wide interests and considerable accomplishments, but does she have a fictional voice?

Certainly, she has a big subject — the ordinariness of people's working lives — and she should be applauded for setting much of her debut novel in the closed world of a London surveyor's office. Few novelists write successfully about work, but, as Doughty shows, office life, with its labyrinthine network of rules, its compromises and petty hierarchies, is a place which is at once real and surreal.

Crazy Paving is about three young women — Annette, Joan and Helly — and their attempt to find a way out of the maze of bureaucratic confusion into which they have wandered so unwillingly. Although Annette feels that she and her colleagues are "pathetic", they are, in fact, perfectly likeable, and we read with recognition of their falling in and out of love, their troubled pasts and their diminished aspirations. Little happens to them that is memorable; yet at the end, after a plot to expose their boss as a treacherous swindler brings them together, one feels that through their tenderness to one another they have found dignity and a kind of nobility.

There is much to enjoy here, but Doughty's strengths as a playwright are, paradoxically, her weaknesses as a novelist. She has a flair for set pieces, for the epiphanic moment, yet she does not create a convincingly complete fictional world. Her dialogue is sharp and driven, yet her prose is sluggish and becalmed, stylistically conventional. Similarly, as a narrator, she is simply too prescriptive. A woman, for instance, is introduced who resembles a duck-billed platypus — but we are just *told* this. Doughty makes no attempt to describe how such a person would look, move or talk, leaving us to conclude that such a task, requiring a piercing comic eye and radiantly exact prose, is beyond her.

This would be permissible in the theatre, where one could rely on an actor to animate the woman's oddity; but the novelist, bereft of such supporting structures, has only language with which to convince. And too often, alas, Doughty fails.

JASON COWLEY

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When home is a concrete tank

A pair of housing pioneers are going underground — not just because they want an unusual home but also for sound ecological reasons. Could this be the house of the future?

A small advert, "Concrete reservoir for sale", in a local newspaper six years ago set Jonathan Rodney-Jones and Shannon Ridd on a self-build trail that will end when they finally move into one of the most unusual houses in Britain.

The pair are going underground — into a huge concrete water tank buried beneath a steep bank in a Devon lane. Built in 1904, the tank supplied water to the 8,000 people of Braunton, near Barnstaple, until the late 1940s. However, it will be several more years before they are able to occupy their subterranean home because they are doing nearly all the work themselves.

The couple, known as "the moles" in Braunton, where they are living with Mr Rodney-Jones's parents, are taking so long over their giant task because they have been unable to get a mortgage on the property. They have had to earn the estimated £70,000 needed for the conversion from the sculpture and mosaics company they run.

It took them two years to prepare their case for planning permission, which was granted in August 1992. Before that, they spent two years designing such practicalities as water and power supply, and sanitation.The extended time scale has not been a huge problem for the pair. Mr Rodney-Jones says: "We paid £5,000 for the tank — plus two separate one-third-acre plots — and because we desperately needed a timber store and extra workshop space for our company, we considered the money well spent, even if we failed to get planning permission for a house.

"From the outset, we had to have great faith in the project. It was only after contracts were exchanged that we were able to gain entry. The sale was by tender, sight unseen, because the tank was not insured for casual callers."

The "moles" emerge from their underground home

The first time the pair climbed down a rusting iron ladder to inspect the inside of their purchase they expected to descend into fathoms of mud and sludge. Instead, they found a 31ft by 62ft sweet-smelling vault, 12ft high. The massive concrete roof, and the earth above it, was supported by eight brick pillars.

"We knew immediately that it would make a marvellous home," Mr Rodney-Jones says. "All our ideas of using it as a workshop or a woodstore disappeared."

In the past two years, the two have removed tonnes of earth that covered the 4ft-thick concrete roof, and used a special diamond-core drill to cut three large square holes. These will soon support three glass pyramids, which will be the main source of light and heat for the property and, from the hillside above, the only clue to their troglodyte existence.

They have also removed layers of earth from part of one side of the tank nearest the road and cut a hole, 8ft by 4ft, to form the main entrance. The slab of concrete they removed weighed an estimated six tonnes. Outside this breach in the side of the main structure they are building an irregularly shaped dark ante-room through which visitors will enter the house. "This will contrast totally with the regularity of the main chamber beyond," Mr Rodney-Jones says. "The idea is to make it a sort of dark mock-gothic vaulted space reminiscent of a comic opera set."

As visitors enter the main chamber, they will undergo a strange experience. The deliberate "underground" feel of the dark vestibule will disappear immediately as they see light pouring in from the roof, and casting a myriad of reflections on the mosaic floor in the central dining and meeting area.

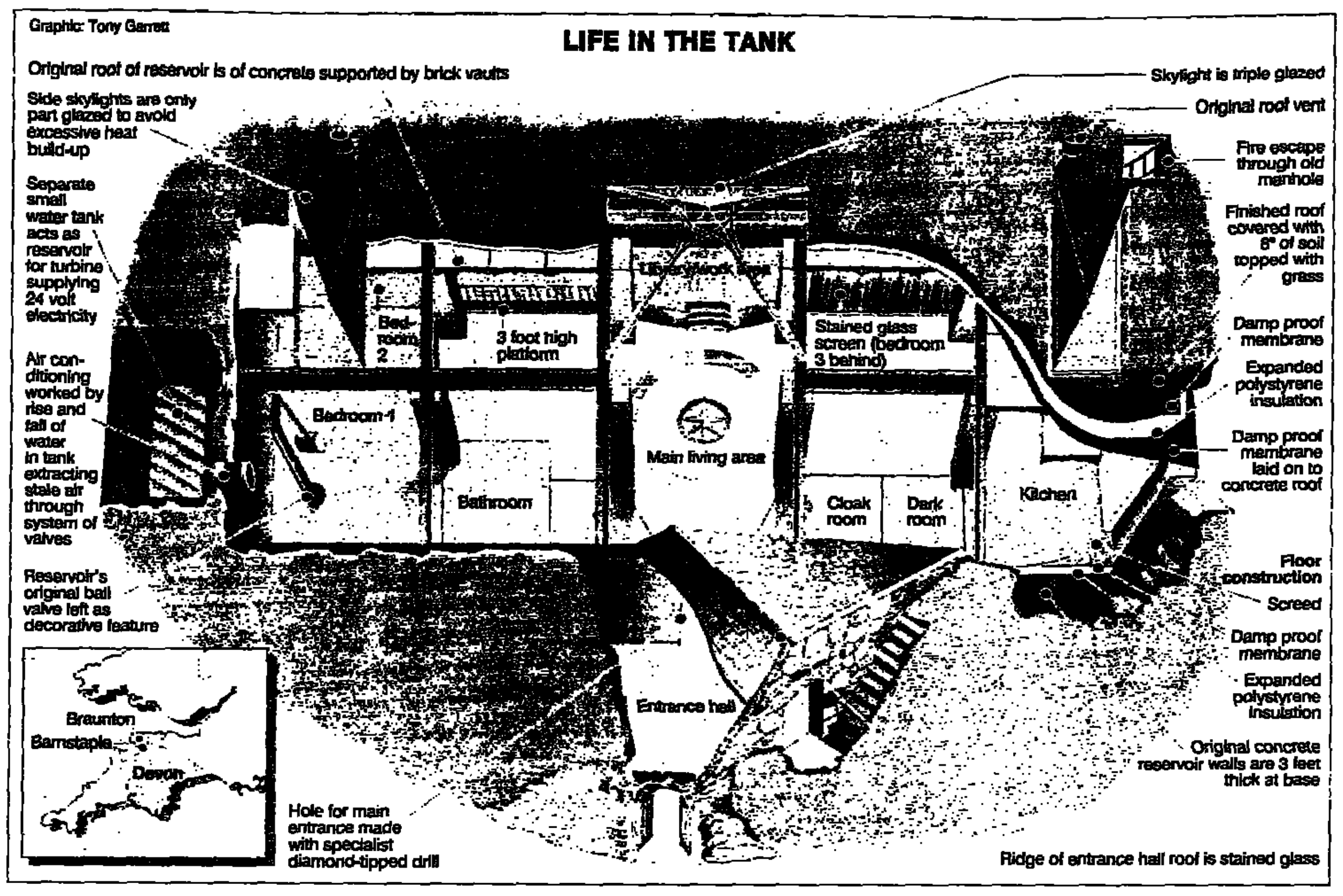
Ms Ridd says: "We plan to have a display and stage area in the middle of this space, where we can entertain clients and show them some of our sculptures."

Three bedrooms, two bathrooms and the kitchen will radiate off the main chamber: glazed partition-style walls will allow natural light to spread from the central area.

"We also plan to paint some backcloths — perhaps of Devon countryside or maybe typical scenes you might see through a suburban window — to give a *trompe-l'oeil* effect because we shall have no exterior view from the building," she says.

The two do not see this lack of scenery as a disadvantage, although purpose-built earth-sheltered buildings are usually sited into hillsides, with views from glazed fronts. To compensate, they plan to install a submarine periscope at the top of the vertical steel ladder leading to the original access hatch.

The couple seem to have a penchant for disused military equipment. Building materials are transported to the site on a four-tonne 1988 Bedford military truck bought for £1,400 at the sale of redundant military hardware where they bought the periscope.



Graphic: Tony Garrett

LIFE IN THE TANK

Original roof of reservoir is of concrete supported by brick vaults
Side skylights are only part glazed to avoid excessive heat build-up
Separate small water tank acts as reservoir for turbine supplying 24 volt electricity
Air conditioning worked by rise and fall of water in tank extracting stale air through system of valves
Reservoir's original ball valve left as decorative feature
Braunton
Barnstaple
Devon
Hole for main entrance made with specialist diamond-tipped drill
Bed-room 2
3 foot high platform
Bedroom 1
Bathroom
Main living area
Stained glass screen (bedroom 3 behind)
Cloak room
Dark room
Kitchen
Entrance hall
Skylight is triple glazed
Original roof vent
Fire escape through old manhole
Finished roof covered with 8" of soil topped with grass
Damp proof membrane
Expanded polystyrene insulation
Damp proof membrane laid on to concrete roof
Floor construction
Screed
Damp proof membrane
Expanded polystyrene insulation
Original concrete reservoir walls are 3 feet thick at base
Ridge of entrance hall roof is stained glass

Mr Rodney-Jones says: "When all the work is complete, the building will be as invisible from the lane as it was before. But it would be nice to buy an old army tank to stand guard at the front, with its barrel protruding through the hedge that borders the lane. We could mount the house name — The Tank — on the barrel."

Beneath the wit and the exuberance that characterises the venture and the joy of seeing their project coming to fruition, Mr Rodney-Jones and Ms Ridd are trying to make a number of serious points.

Their belief in the benefits of living underground is genuine. The couple are enthusiastic members of the British Earth Sheltering Association, a body devoted to promoting living underground — something that is quite commonplace in America, in parts of Spain and in China.

"We expect virtually no heating bills," Mr Rodney-Jones says. "The surrounding earth and the inner linings to all the walls should provide ample storage for the solar gain we achieve through the pyramids during the day, and the light coming in should create interesting effects in the main central living area. We predict that this will cut our lighting bills by a third.

"Earth sheltering also provides greater security, very little maintenance and, in our case, a building that we think will last a good 500 years. There are fewer than a dozen other earth sheltered homes in this country and we like to think that we are pioneers.

"In 100 years' time, or less, I believe that large numbers of people will be living in earth sheltered homes in Britain.

"Building this way ties in with the new conservationist methods. Society is going to have to look at energy usage, and earth dwellings save space in a crowded country.

"The concept also accords with the thinking of an increasing number of people who are tired of living in what I call shoe boxes.

"This in turn means that far more agricultural land is going to have to be released for housing. To keep that land green, there is really only one way of building — underground."

CLIVE FEWINS

EARTH sheltered housing has many advantages, according to the British Earth Sheltering Association. Underground homes, it says:

- have better energy-saving properties than most other forms of housing;
- have a low visual impact;
- require little structural maintenance;
- are free from most forms of intrusive noise;
- save space, and are thus environmentally friendly;
- have a low fire risk and thus low insurance premiums;
- provide greater security than conventional homes;
- are resistant to draughts;
- make use of steep slope sites on which it is often impossible to build a conventional house;
- unlike most homes, they do not contribute to global warming — they need little heating and therefore produce virtually no CO_2.

Peter Carpenter, the secretary of the British Earth Sheltering Association, who lives in an underground home near Monmouth, Gwent, says: "There are very few disadvantages. One is that because there are so few earth sheltered homes in the UK, it is usually hard — although not impossible — to get planning permission. Some people find it difficult to cope psychologically in an earth sheltered dwelling — but this usually applies only to deep structures.

"When a lot of excavation is needed, building costs can be higher than for conventional homes — although savings can often be made in other ways."

- *A free leaflet on earth sheltered housing can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to the British Earth Sheltering Association, Caer Llan Bern House, Lydart, Monmouth, Gwent NP5 4JJ.*

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LADIES

ABSOLUTELY a one off blonde very sexy intelligent lady 40 adorable, tactile, with passion and humour who loves life, laughing and loving - WLTM a very special kind of man. He will be very successful i.e. barrister, surgeon, chairman etc., dynamic, neither a wimp nor emotionally crippled, who has through pressure of work forgotten how to love and laugh or just how sensual holding hands and kissing in the rain can be. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to put this right. Photo, details and phone no, please. All replies answered. Reply to Box No 3483

ANGLO-BRAZILIAN elegant, vivacious, v. fit, widow 60. GSOH & solvent. Loves wining, dining, politics, travelling, driving & all good things. WLTM a gentleman of similar age & health/status to enjoy life with. London/S.E. Photo app. Please Reply to Box No 3417

A pretty physio.48 slim 5'6" warm tactile fun n/s seeks slim sensitive arts loving male 48-58 S.Herts/Lond. Photo Box 3061

ARE there 4 men out there aged between 40-55 who would like to have dinner with 4 lively attractive professional ladies? If so, then we are in the New Forest area! Reply Box No 3389

ATTRACTIVE Lady, slim, 45 5'4" n/s, Tyne & Wear. WLTM charming professional gentleman.Box No 3415

LADIES

ARE you a successful, well-educated and cultured male, aged 45 to 55, who would like a caring relationship with an intelligent, warm and sensitive lady? I am a well-travelled, cosmopolitan, 49 year-old business woman, with wide-ranging interests, who is seeking someone special in my life. I am based in London/Southern England. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 3497

ARE you tall, active, successful, your own person, sporty & quite a strong character aged 50-65, London, Yorks, or Thames Valley. If so this happy, attractive, educated lady would like to hear from you. Photo app.Reply to Box No 3372

ATTRACTIVE lady, 37, pub. sch. ed., done the travel and adventure, now seeks partner in life, 35-45 for companionship and more. Interests inc. politics (conserv.), history, antiques, countryside, evenings in and out. Hants, Surrey, London. Please Reply to Box No 3188

ATTRACTIVE vivacious woman, Ex. Pub Sch 60-ish enjoys country pursuits Theatres entertaining friends and candlelit dinners - Seeks tall warm affectionate man 60-65 similar interests n/s Thames Valley.Photo please Reply to Box No 3064

ATTRACTIVE romantic stylish solvent professional lady (58) WLTM kind cultured gentleman to share some of lifes adventures. Lives 30 minutes drive from London. Please Reply to Box No 3394.

ATTRACTIVE N. Lincs prof. lady 38 slim blonde no ties. Seeks caring romantic tall n/s prof guy GSOH to enjoy the good life together. Photo & letter to Box No 3367

ATTRACTIVE fun-loving widow with GSOH and T.L.C. 45 n/s WLTM prof gentleman 40-50ish to make life sparkle again. Photo app. Worcs /Hereford /Mids.Reply to Box No 3436

ATTRACTIVE zany blonde 49 generously proportioned caring romantic willing to drink n/v occasionally! Seeks gentleman to love aged up to 65. Letter and photo app.Reply Box No 2961

A very vivacious attractive divorced (2yrs) v.slim, 5'8", Cotswold lady 39. Enjoys golf and bridge. Seeks partner with similar interests for loving relationship.Reply Box No 3391

BATH area. Bright lady 47 5'6" slim happy, but misses that one special man to share her life. Enjoys ski-ing walking music laughing sailing, in fact most things.WLTM genuine caring single prof gent aged 46-58. Write & photo if poss Box 3076

BE My Valentine. Lady Graduate, 30, seeks single man, 28-35, n/s, 5'10" plus to be my Valentine every day of the year. Send heart + card + photo. South East.Box No 3421

BLACK Lady, mother, 39, 5ft 7ins, size 14, average looks, very loving, WLTM wealthy generous gentleman for relationship. Holidays, weekends away no problem. Nationality unimportant.Box No 3418

BLONDE beauty, sophisticated, 39, wants handsome man with own business, photo imperative. Reply to Box No 3410

BONJOUR bonheur! Bright, breezy, brunette (40's) into Bach, Brahms, Britten, books, beaches, boats, blackbirds & Beaujolais. Seeks bel homme for bonbonnie and bleu! Derbys, Cheshire area. Photo Please Reply to Box No 3485

BRIGHT, attractive country loving lady, 36, Northants. Has everything but the right man to make life complete. Are you the one? Reply to Box No 3307

CAN you reel? Enthusiastic man (35-45) sought to join party, highland ball, London, 3 March.Reply to Box No 3476

CARDIFF COLIN P. Too late for dinghy sailing, Dorset? Please Reply to Box No 2992

CAT LOVER from Cambs seeks charming, courteous, cultured, chap 48-58 n/s. She is friendly, feminine, fun, fit, not fainthearted, any takers. Box No 3258

CHARMING, educated, attractive, solvent, responsive N.W. London lady seeks strong, decisive, tallish man (55-70). (Charm, good looks, prosperity - no problem!) Phone no. please to Box No 3176

CHINESE professional divorced lady (42) wishes to meet similar independent professional man 42-56. London/S.E. Photo app. Please Reply to Box No 3439

CLASSY Affectionate French lady, 48, London. Likes music, walks, going out and staying in. Like to meet caring, well educ. gentleman 50-65 for genuine rel. Tot. discretion Please Reply to Box No 3266

CONTINENTAL female, 46, 5'7", Sussex based, enjoys foreign travel, home life etc seeks n/s gentleman. Box No 3125

COSMOPOLITAN Prof lady, 53, N/S, slim, attractive, warm with VGSOH, wide interests. Seeks compatible, 45-55 gentleman of integrity with zest for life for whatever may develop. Photo appreciated. Box 3350

COUNTRY-LOVING Public School semi-retired nurse. Sparky, attractive, slim, brunette, GSOH, warm personality, wide interests. London visits. Solvent, n/s, domesticated. Seeks tall, educated, presentable, fit chap, 60's, for companionship and fun. South-west. Please Reply to Box No 3470

CURVY gorgeous lady,in her 30's, warm, outgoing & intelligent, seeks a gentleman to improve her lifestyle immensely. Discretion assured. Box No 3178

DELICIOUSLY alive, tallish, slimmish, sometimes elegant, apparently attractive 40's lady seeks very special partner. This relationship requires warmth, wisdom, laughter, sincerity and some worldly success. Do write, with phone no for a chat. Please Reply to Box No 3487

DOCTOR'S widow, 62, solvent, widely ed, personable, missing warmth & companionship of similar professional gent 60-70 Churchgoer GSOH Wales /Midlands. Reply to Box No 3463

EUROPEAN LADY 43, intelligent, attractive personality, varied interests WLTM gentleman for permanent relationship age 40/50, highly intelligent with a good & generous nature. Photo apprec. SE area Box No 3326

FELLOW Magician. I know you're out there. A man who like me believes with love, truth, trust anything is possible (even magic). Me? - 30's attractive, lively, fun loving, kind, modest! You? - romantic, 40+, open heart and mind, must love hugs, travel, picnics. I want to share love, life, cuddles, good and bad times with someone special. Please reply with photo. Lets see if we can be friends and then maybe more. London/South. Box No 3186

FROM SALISBURY but definitely not plain! Lively lady, slim, blonde, divorced and 40. Seeks hang up free, caring, solvent man with laughter lines. In to town and country and anywhere in between .Letter and photo.Reply to Box No 3169

FUN, laughter, warmth, sharing & brains sought by an attractive, intelligent businesswoman keen to redress the all work & no play balance. I am early 40's with wide ranging interests including good food & wine (with the right company), music, countryside, & people watching. You will be 40+, a professional, successful, N/S graduate within striking distance of Oxford. Photo apprec. Please Reply to Box No 3183

FUN LOVING attractive, slim, London, 50ish female wltm cultured, tall, male, 45-55 for travel in May. Travel expenses shared. Letter, photo, tel no please. Reply to Box No 3163

HAPPY, romantic, independent, slim lady, 44, loves clothes, cooking, bridge, badminton, music - and you? Seeks gentleman, 40-55, with SOH. Berkshire.Box No 3240

I am 58, a teacher, retiring next year, divorced, no children, healthy, slim, looking younger. Would like to meet Englishman willing to live in Athens. Will visit London in April. Please reply to P.O. Box 52874, Athens, 14600 Greece.

I love life but not on my own. Lady, 56 years old, widow, slim, 5'3" with the zest of life, would like to encounter a male Valentine with similar descriptions Photo please. Box 2997

I'M Dv. GL. S. N/S, in years two score & ten. I'm pursued by B's & bores, importuned by married men. I'm sick of it & need someone with whom I can be friends, with pillow talk & mutual lust and an end to drear weekends! So, if you are my age or more, successful kind & clever don't hesitate just get in touch, but otherwise don't bother. London/S.E. Please Reply to Box No 3397

LADY 63, slim active n/s, seeks refined gent for companionship, Suffolk. Reply to Box No 3193

INTERESTING professional gentlemen to join like-minded ladies for Valentines dinner in the Cotswolds.Box No 3019

I want to remarry a 60 ish educated man. I am a n.s. with a g.s.o.h. & many interests. I'd love to care for someone & be cared for. Surrey/West Sussex. Box No 3274

JEWISH very attractive sensuous caring intelligent prof.brunette (London based) seeks soulmate - if you are 43-53 and unattached Reply today and surprise me! Box No 3473

JEWISH girl green-eyed blonde seeks unattached man of same faith 45-50 Interests music, art & politics.Reply to Box No 3387

JUST 50. Attractive prof. female, seeks handsome & successful male, aged between 30 & 54. If nothing else we'll be good friends. Photo. Box No 3173

KATHARINE ALLEN "The highly respected marriage bureaux" (The Independent). 18 Thayer St. London W1M 5LD. Tel: 071-935 3115

KEEP TRYING! An attractive, elegant, intellectual, continental, Jewish lady seeks an intelligent, intense, warm-hearted, dreaming man of action, whose intentions are good (47-55, over 5'9"). Box No 3292

LADY Doctor 62 working p/t Public School, excellent hostess, successful children, missing warmth and companionship of similar professional gentleman 60-70 yr a church goer G.S.O.H. plays bridge. Many interests. Box No 3123

LANCS. Lovely lady longing to meet church/theatre/concert going charming chap 45+ for walks, talks and much, much more. Letter and photo? Please Reply to Box No 3491

LAUGHTER, friendship, celestine prophecy. Do you too believe in the destiny of your soul? I live in Derbyshire.Reply Box 3210

LECTURER, 40, 6', single seeks lady with class! Travel, arts, walks.Box 3481. Lond & S.E.

ME? English 31 Lives Middle East. Petite Smart well travelled romantic with GSOH.You? Independent well groomed interesting for genuine relationship, photo please. Reply to Box No 3327

MEET attractive, sexy women at London singles' parties. MEET 'N' EAT 071 629 5634

NORTHUMBRIAN lady 68 n/s widow WLTM kind, solvent gent 65-70, TLC reciprocated. Please Reply to Box No 3291

ORIENTAL Lady residing Tunbridge Wells, (39), 5ft 3in. Attractive, single, feminine. A n/s with a warm, loving & caring disposition & well-travelled (worldwide) with interests in country walks, swimming, dining out, music seeks a solvent, caring, loving, faithful unencumbered professional Englishman, 40-48, preferably a n/s for a permanent relationship. Photo essential (returnable). Pls Reply to Box No 3185

PASSIONATE partner please, pref intelligent, professional, sensitive, 50-60ish, for slim, petite, warm, attractive professional woman who loves cuddles. Box No 3126

PETITE and bewitching Midlands based Art historian with sparkling eyes and sparkling sense of humour seeks attractive 50-60 year old man, extremly bright, solvent and available, with a fondness for pheasant pie, fine wine, fine music, and tramping round foreign sites. Please send revealing letter and not necessarily revealing photo to box no 3370

PETITE Kiwi blonde loves horses & country-life seeks similar honourable professional cuddly teddy-type gent for sincere relationship with lots of T.L.C. Aged 45-55. London based. Photo app.Reply Box No 3423

PILOT'S WIDOW Slim,blond, 53, seeks upmarket chap for 1995 take off.Photo app. Please Reply to Box No 3160

PRETTY YOUNG THING Twenty years old, positive and fun to be with, wishes to meet a charming, attractive, older man. Photo appreciated. Reply to Box No 3170

PROFESSIONAL Female, 38, blond 5ft 3ins, sporty, likes theatre, travel, dining out, seeks companion (35-40)(male). London area. Please Reply to Box No 3196

PROFESSIONAL woman, 40, separated,attractive, fun, sensuous warm cuddly yet stylish seeks soulmate for friendship, outings, passion - relationship. London.Reply Box No 3072

REALLY beautiful blonde lady, 26, 5'9", elegant, cultured and compassionate. Great SOH, loves skiing, music and laughter, seeks well-to-do, witty, single gentleman for a committed relationship. Surrey area. Photo apprecited. Box No 3343

REFORMED temptress 44, 5'7" slender warm & loving. Seeks thoughtful attractive unjaded man!London/S.E.Box 3399

REWARD Valentine's Day Dinner for gentleman 65 plus. Tall, free with no ties - no married men please. For much younger lady with view to marriage. London/Cambridge/Sussex. Box No 3167

SCOTTISH Beauty, 30, curvaceous brunette, blue eyes. Fantastic humour. Loves travel & the good life. You, 35 plus, very well established, in own business. Box No 3175

SINCERELY YOURS Attractive elegant blonde 30's, seeks the finer things in life- wishes to meet tall elegant elite professional businessman late 40's-60's on casual basis for theatre wining and dining and of course lots more! London/S.East. Tel no. appreciated Box No 3364

SLIM attractive Jewish female WLTM male, 58-60ish who enjoys sophisticated lifestyle. Warmth & laughter essential. Please Reply to Box No 3341

SMART, semi-retired professional lady, widow, Cambridge area. Interested in travel, music, dining out, family and home WLTM intelligent, considerate gentleman 50-65 GSOH for companionship and perhaps long-term cherishing. Please Reply to Box No 3196

SOPHISTICATED, prof. well-travelled, n/s, funny & warm-hearted. Happy in little black dress or wellies! A horse/dog lover.This leggy blonde, early 40's, has no time to find that special, humorous, intelligent, successful, honest man. do you exist? Central /west London or the shires. Photo a bonus. Please Reply to Box No 3414

SOUTH Cheshire country lady, widow, 51, 5' 8". Varied interests, wising to meet country gentleman 48-56, n/s with sense of humour. Please Reply to Box No 3191

STABLE Bright Male TV Producer/ Writer/ Type thing required. Photo (of self) would help. To meet another in the business. I'm female/ attractive/ bright/ funny at times/all that. Age dicey but lets go for 32-47 and a half in general. Box No 3400

STUNNING Slender sophisticated sexy professional business lady 30 seeks interesting tall attractive sincere cultured gentleman with GSOH to share interests including country pursuits, the arts, music and travel. Genuine photo and phone number appreciated. London/Home Counties. Reply to Box No 3219

SURREY. Glamorous blonde young 50's cultured warm & loving WLTM adventurous gentleman with character & charm. Photo app.Box No 3382

SURREY widow, happy, feminine, cultured seeks like gentleman 65+ for sharing some of lifes many pleasures. Please Reply to Box No 3337

TALL attractive Cambridge woman (50) WLTM a witty amusing professional man. Please Reply to Box No 3038

TALL, fair, stylish, 60ish, widow, enjoys the odd cigarette, loves theatre, books and music, seeks similarly affluent, humorous, handsome, cultured counterpart, pref. living nr. Farnham. Please Reply to Box No 3378

TALL slim attractive female, 42, with many attributes and interests wishing to meet similar independent professional male, active with young outlook, to share life, love and hopefully lots of laughs. ALA. Please Reply to Box No 3271

TRAVEL EDITOR, London based, young 48, attractive, blonde, good listener/good talker. Seeks witty, cultured, enthusiastic male, 40-55 for close relationship. Photo please to Box No 3313

UNEXPECTEDLY back on the market. Attractive, cuddly, uncomplicated blonde, minimal rust, seeks tall, 35+, humorous owner. Country garage essential. Photo and phone no app.Reply to Box No 3401

V.attractive, loving, lawyer/ mother, 37, seeks strong, reliable successful generous, aware protector/playmate.Box 3489

VERY attractive, (but modest!) professional female graduate (35) - Barbie-Doll with intelligence, w.l.t.m. single, fit, non-smoking male (33-43yrs) in the Manchester area, of similar educational standing with g.s.o.h. who will share my love of travel, arts, dogs, walking and the usual good things in life. Only sincere, caring men of integrity need apply. Roman Catholics score an extra 10 Bonus points. Photo & Tel. no. essential. Box No 3290

WELL-TRAVELLED sporty, London lady, 54, seeks educated, lively, well-heeled, man to share free time, holidays & surplus energy.Box No 3366

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

CASCADE

We Specialise in being **SOCIAL GROUPS** for the **UNATTACHED**, highly established and meeting weekly in

BRISTOL
CARDIFF & Gwent
GLOUCESTERSHIRE
SWANSEA
BATH/Wilts
SOMERSET

WE DO..

Assist you on your first evening by arranging that one of our existing members rendezvous with you and introduce you to those present.

WE DO..

In addition to meeting mid-weekly, every weekend are organised dances (quaintly called Les Bops) where allied to the evening is exceptionally good value overnight accommodation at some of S.Wales and the West Country's finest hotels).

That's why people throughout the UK are currently joining Plus Dining Evenings/Dip & Dine which are member led (so no 'rip-off' surcharge) Walks, Theatre Trips, House Parties, Golf, Horse Riding, Sub Acqua Diving, Caving.... a very balanced and full programme of events.

WE DO...

Give value for money as all new members are introduced for a 6 month period at £25!! Because of our approachable joining fee we can afford to be selective. (We are able to maintain excellent male/female balance figures because **real men don't pay extortionate joining fees**)

WE DO...

Believe that we cannot guarantee you will meet the man/woman of your dreams... although it has happended.. but we can guarantee that there is no finer way to develop a new network of friends.

WE DO...

Offer a welcoming environment for those who are divorced/ widowed/ legally separated and those single (no train spotters!) who have sustained a relationship. We work within age ranges early 30's to mid 50's drawing membership from the professional/ managerial/ business working background. If you would care to find out more details of **CASCADE** please contact Howard or Jan on

01495 75 53 09

NOON TO 7PM 7 DAYS
FAX: 01495 75 90 46

LADIES

VERY attractive slim warm outgoing adventurous 40 something S.W.London WLTM tall, financially secure man with same qualities - for life, but also maybe for skiing in March! Photo appreciated. Box No 3334

VIVACIOUS fun-loving 5'9" blonde (38) exec. Seeks successful (single/separated) male with GSOH & a generous passionate nature. Age 30's-young 50. Send photo & info. Midlands area or helicopter.Box No 3384

VIVACIOUS, professional female, 40, loves food, wine, tennis and life. Seeks tall, charismatic genuinely kind, solvent, amusing man, preferably under 50. Box No 3277

WARM and fun female, 52, would like to meet kindly and sincere man 40+ with GSOH for companionship, outings and time together. Interests include Classic FM, animals and inner-journeying. Please Reply to Box No 3117.... SW London area.

WEST of Scotland vivacious lady young mid-50's GSOH seeks intelligent, n/s, gent, 57-66, to share laughter and a caring relationship. Box No 3454

WIDOW 58, would love to increase her circle of friends, for eating out, theatre etc. Central London.Reply Box No 3453

WILL St Valentine answer my request? Stylish mid-50s, E.Kent WLTM intelligent, N/S, 50-60 widower/divorcee for friendship & possible romance. Please Reply to Box No 3354

YOUTHFUL, bright, affectionate, 50ish, privately educated, well-travelled, stylish, interesting lady wishes to spoil a really lovely, unmarried, solvent, n/s, well-adjusted, healthy, business or professional man 48-58 with savoir-vivre, for friendship /relationship. Recent photo please. Location no object. Reply to Box No 3276

37 yr old professional graduate and single mother would like to meet professional male to share interests of classical music, conversation and to develop friendship. Please Reply to Box No 3358. Photo appreciated.

ZSA ZSA GABOR speak & lookalike is searching for (over 55) Mr. Gabor! Please Reply to Box No 3368

GENTLEMEN

HIS ARMOUR PIERCED

His wounds now healed. Soldier of love searches the barren wastelands for the one maiden who is destined to share Knight times of passion and a life-time of love in faraway places where dreams come true.

Maiden: 22-33, charming, attractive, intelligent, funny and very passionate about the important things in life.

As for the knight (28): I am searching for someone similar to myself.

Just hoping for your reply, THE KNIGHT OF PASSION.

London/home counties Box 3371

ABOLISH Winter! Fabulous lifestyle. 2 summers every year offered by romantic/genuine/caring/calm/solvent 6ft young mid 50's Englishman, interested? You're 38/50 happy feminine/sensual but flexible who adores sun/sea/music/laughter. nationality/colour unimportant, good heart ess. small child lovingly accepted. Write with photo to Box 3263

A Caring, good natured, single man, 31, city professional and Scottish graduate, seeks lady, N/S, for friendship or romance.Box No 3237

ADVENTUROUS, upmarket publisher: young 48: tall, lean, athletic: very good looks/nature: single, successful: London/overseas homes: cultured, communicative, humorous: human, fallible, worldly. Seeks very attractive, slim, stylish, perhaps unconventional lover for lasting intimacy. Photo app. Please Reply to Box No 3493

A handsome gallant Knight (34) searching for a beautiful young damsel. Let me win your heart for a fairytale ending - no dragons please! Photo ensures reply and a tour of London castle! Reply to Box No 3456

AMERICAN Lawyer (37) seeks slim literate, genteel, SWPF (30-37) photo, serious particulars Please Reply to Box No 3321

ARE you 30's - waiting for a romantic 43 yr old Co. Director (Jewish n/o n.s. g.s.o.h.) to sweep you off your feet? Do you like Cinema, theatre, eating out (or nights in!) Current affairs (Con) & want to share life and lots of love? Then I want to hear from you (photo pref) Box No 3267

GENTLEMEN

ARE you feminine, unattached slim, attractive well-spoken, elegant, warm & affectionate who WLTM widower with a quiet but comfortable life-style in Hertfordshire? I am 71, semi-retired, young at heart N/S active, healthy, responsible, caring. Brisk walker, poor golfer, improving bridge player, keen home muscian (light music), enjoy good food, wine, holidays & breaks. Could our GSOH be compatible & lead to happiness & a loving relationship together. Box No 3122

ARE you tall dark complx. lady interested in art, travel, non fiction, walks? Similar busmn. 50 would like your occasional friendship.Box No 3412

ARTISTIC male, 46, loves books, classical music,kind, courteous, positive, seeks lady partner. N. London.Reply to Box No 3445

ATTRACTIVE hardworking Businessman, 49 years young, educated, travelled, sensuous, loyal, a n/s, many interests including swimming, walking, dancing, cinema, dining out and cosy meals/evenings in, holidays in the sun, with lots of TLC to give the right petite/slim lady 35-50 years. Based 1 hour from London, but have car will travel anywhere in UK. Photo appreciated.Box No 3415

ATTRACTIVE knight in shining armour currently disguised as Co. Director (43) needs rescuing by NS, attractive, intelligent, witty, professional Damsel (distress optional). N. London, Beds, Herts, Bucks. Letter & Photo to Box No 3288

ATTRACTIVE Amorous slim lady sought by male 50. Photo Pls. London/SE. Box No 3269

AUSSIE New to UK. WLTM 30's N/S Lady. Into Skiing, sports, travel & TLC. Call 01033 79076983 or Box No 3301

A 49yr old male WLTM a warm, tactile, passionate, attractive lady who wants to give and receive lots of T.L.C. All replies with a photograph will be answered - honest! Box 3428

CARING Cancerian Company Director very young early fifties - attractive interesting understanding compassionate non smoking lots of fair hair blue eyes about 5'9" tall living in luxury flat near Croydon - seeks elegant slim feminine young lady 30 to 40 for wining dining fun laughter happiness exotic holidays - to be my soul mate from now into Eternity. Photo & Phone Essential:Please reply to Box No 3270

CHRISTIAN (Anglican) widower, 67, graduate, fit, active, solvent, kind, N/S, GSOH, WLTM educated Christian lady, perhaps widow, under 65 with a view to marriage if relationship develops and there is compatibility. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 3138

CIVILISED unattached, successful Oxbridge man (54). Interests include classical music, travel, theatre, arts generally, sport, keeping fit, seeks articulate and intelligent professional/ academic woman, 30s/40s for caring relationship, marriage if compatible, possibly to late-start or extend family. Photo appreciated and returned. London and SE area. Box No 3121

COUNTRY gentleman mid 30's professional fun-loving enjoys country sport racing rugby travel music home life seeks romantic and affectionate lady GSOH for exciting relationship. Please Reply to Box No 3373

COUNTRY HOUSE needs TLC and style, extra perk is charming owner 50+ intelligent, active, sails, skis, but lacks cuddles and love. SE. Box No 3383

ENGLISH Gentleman living South of France, young 60's, seeks lady to share life in sun and varied interests. Please Reply to Box No 3171

ESTABLISHED but not wealthy genuine young 60's Widower seeks slim "power dresser" classy society type with no ties lady 45+, not averse to little smoking with view to marriage in average lifestyle. London preferred, but not essential. Letter with photo please.Box No 3238

FALLEN Millionaire, 50 years young, working his way back up the ladder again. Own business, property, car etc. Handsome, interesting, experienced. Lots of interests, personal assets and love to give slim lady 40-55 who would be happy with things as they are now, and ecstatic when back on top. Prepared to travel for that special lady. Photo appreciated.Box No 3419

FRENCH man, 31, single, 1m74, non-smoker, seeks nice & kind girl (18-30) in London for correspond, great friendship, mutual visits and maybe permanent relationship. I want to improve my English. Hobbies: Travels, music, humour, languages, exhibitions, stamps + England. Write to: Francois Rosicki, 85 Rue de Reuilly, 75012 Paris, France.

GENTLE Aries Renaissance bookman, offers sense of fun, a slow hand, imagination, and a firm resolve, to unconventional loyal thinking type of girl of any nationality, interested in risking a new beginning. Please Reply to Box No 3496

GLADYS EMANUELLE or similarly charming Rubenesque to partner n/s 51yr E/Anglia. London single again Arkwright. GSOH av. height build fit professional solvent own hair teeth. Enjoys travel music and much more. If love laughter caring sharing appeals pl. write. Photo if poss.Box No 3492

GRADUATE male, N/S, slim, 5ft 11ins, E.Berkshire, wide interests, seeks attractive, intelligent woman under 45. Photo pref.Box No 3416

GOOD-LOOKING self-employed professional man, generous and romantic, a successful high earner. WLTM attractive, intelligent, sexy lady soul mate up to 45 to rediscover exciting times and maybe more. Location: Birmingham, Coventry, Stratford triangle.Reply to Box No 3298

"GOT style and rhythm, need the girl to with'em": Tall, attractive, sportsman/ businessman, 37, GSOH, likes music & countryside: seeks slender, female soulmate, 25-45, for fun, romance & wonderment: Glos. Photo please.Reply Box 3284.

HAMILTONS CLUB (West Yorkshire) Newly opened. Sauna, Jacuzzi, Massage, Mon-Fri 10-10pm. 0274 743432

HAMPSHIRE based Naval Officer, (28) 5ft 10, n/s, seeks a charming and beautiful young lady (24-32) with vivacious character to become his Jack Tar for skiing, conversation, food and wine, for friendship or long term relationship. Hants/ Surrey/London. Photo appreciated. Plse Reply to Box No 3184

HANDSOME Blonde 42 year old, very fit and looks younger seeks a slim businesswoman to romance. Despite successful business, an interest in sport, theatre, food, travel, and the countryside is bored and lonely. Thames valley. Photo please Box No 3285

HANDSOME English gentleman mid 40's tall slim lives Chislehurst seeks attractive lady for romance. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 3163

IS there an attractive, humorous, healthy woman out there, under 36, who has seen and done it all, who would like to settle in the country and have a family? Your potential man is 42, single, good-looking, successful, highly-paid, caring, into Mozart and golf, and in the same boat. All replies with photo answered.Box No 3392

LIKES ballet, loves to sail, also opera, theatre, music, art, travel, outdoors, etc. Sensitive, solvent, active, n/s, professional. Hampshire. Seeks erudite educated female soulmate 30-50 for a life of sailing, culture, adventure and much much more. Please Reply to Box No 3498

LONDON Lawyer, slim, fit and good-looking, 39, cultured, articulate, amusing, Jewish seeking attractive, presentable, wholly uncommitted lady, max 33. Photo & 'phone please. Reply to Box No 3000

MALE, fit, slim, very presentable, genuine, honourable, professional, very secure. Seeks true, permanent live-in girlfriend. Someone free, seeking marriage 30-47 years. Hopefully very trim and petite but feminine, predominantly curvaceous. Genuine, caring, meaningful, on-going loving, positive relationship. Established south of London. Please Reply to Box No 3409

MY boss is extremely good-looking, 39, easy-going, very successful but currently has no girlfriend and doubts personal ads work! Prove him wrong. If you are genuinely slim, good looking, 25-35, happy and lively, contact him with photo at Box No 3309. London/SE London/SE.

1995 new start. Caring, sincere man 40's solvent. Likes family life, days out & holidays. Seeks petite young lady, with/without own children. For life-long relationship/marriage. Photo appreciated. London. S.E./Kent area.Reply to Box No 3272

ORIENTAL mixed race gentleman 52, 5'8", widowed, slim. Managing Director, active politician - Conservative. WLTM a lady 40-50 for wining and dining and maybe more. London /S.E. Reply to Box No 3407

PARTNER needed for Clapton . Stones this year or whenever ME: Fit, Fun, Fabulous, Forties. You definitely over 21 with great smile. Must like M&S food. It's all I can cook. Ideally Hants/Berks/Surrey. Photo much app.Reply Box No 2999

PROF. male, 28, B'ham based, n/s, 5'9", dark, handsome, cultured, intelligent and refined, with romantic, tender-hearted 'big baby' type personality, seeks a lovely young lady with traditional values, a heart of gold, but also a good brain - view to romance! Photo preferred, but ALA - from anywhere! Reply Box No 3169

PROFESSIONAL mid 40's, slim, usual interests music, theatre, good food, sport and my great kids. You're an amusing, attractive lady 35+, loyal and looking for an honest relationship, so am I. Oxon/Berks based. Photo + ph app.Reply to Box No 3434

PROFESSIONAL man young 50's wants: involvement with cuddly intelligent attractive discerning young at heart lady. Photo & C.V. then let us meet probably W. Sussex/ Hants. For reply write to Box No 3484

RICHARD GERE look-alike (?!) Late 50's, 5'9", n/s, divorced 10yrs, world-travelled, sensitive, passionate, devoted to Beethoven, Mozart, Ronstadt & beautiful women seeks lover, wife and occasional mother 35-55. Reply Box No 3386

SINGLE good-looking educated 35, 6'11". Own successful business. Seeks warm-hearted attractive single woman 20's-30's who would like to be shown a good time! My interests - classic cars/bikes/music, theatre & generally the good things in life. What are yours? London/S.E.Reply Box 3383

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SPIRITUAL Libra lady 32-42 with style anywhere sought by romantic Leo with GSOH no ties and a taste for life. Please Reply to Box No 3226

SUCCESSFUL Executive based in Madrid, going to London often. Good looking, cultured, well travelled N/S! Loves golf, art, cinema, music. Seeks soulmate age to 35 attractive, unattached who enjoys the challenge of living passionately. Photo appreciated.. Please Reply to Box No 3479

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SUCCESSFUL professional sporty west Londoner (48) with spirit of adventure & GSOH lots of TLC + more seeks attractive uncomplicated n/s lady 30+ for that special relationship. Send photo to Box No 3084

SUCCESSFUL director 31, London, good looking and solvent into fast cars and fast women looking for a partner to live life in the fast lane. Photo ensures reply.Reply Box 3461

SURREY/HANTS based successful Public Sch. Graduate, 51, extensively travelled. Faithful, sensitive & tactile. Own business, semi-rtd. enjoys a full life with golf, sailing, bridge, theatre, ballet, most music, good food & wine but needs that special someone. Seeks attractive well educated lady (40's-50's) with style, GSOH & spirit as long term companionable soul mate for lots of TLC to share all or some of above and life's future pleasures & problems. I know you're out there somewhere ?? Photo app. returned. Reply to Box No 3346

TALL dark and handsome Scorpio male (33) seeks stunning soul partner for lifes travels. Photo essential.Box No 3408

TALL good-looking west London based gentleman 46 many interests seeks attractive humorous lady for friendship and romance in lasting relationship. Photo app.Reply Box No 3379

TALL slim handsome divorced professional Cheshire male 37 attractive lifestyle seeks stylish out-going lady for friendship.

UPSCALED FRENCH Professional Gentleman, single, very good looking, tall and fit, late 30's, good standard of living, varied cultural musical and outdoor interests, is looking for an upscaled, educated, pretty lady n/s mid 20's to mid 30's London based for possible friendship, or relationsl .p. Recent photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 3322

VERY Good Looking & successful business man, 50, 5'9", caring, romantic & living in the countryside, seeks a beautiful & stylish, well spoken refined lady, 35-45, who is romantic, caring, tender & loving. Someone very special who can share varied interests from good music to dining out, log fires & a close, loving relationship. Please reply with photo to Box No 3156

WARM hearted Asian Businessman (48) fond of travelling, restaurant, theatre, cinema based in Paris London searching for a soul mate aged 30-50 for friendship and love. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 3320

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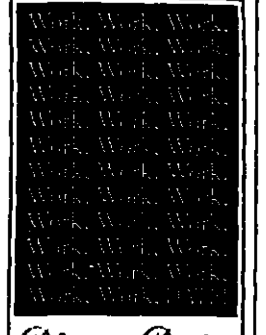

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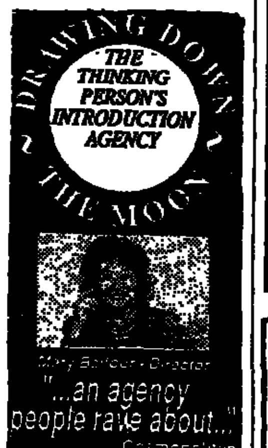

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THE TIMES
Source: NRS Jan-June 94

Taking a leaf out of Hardy's books

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

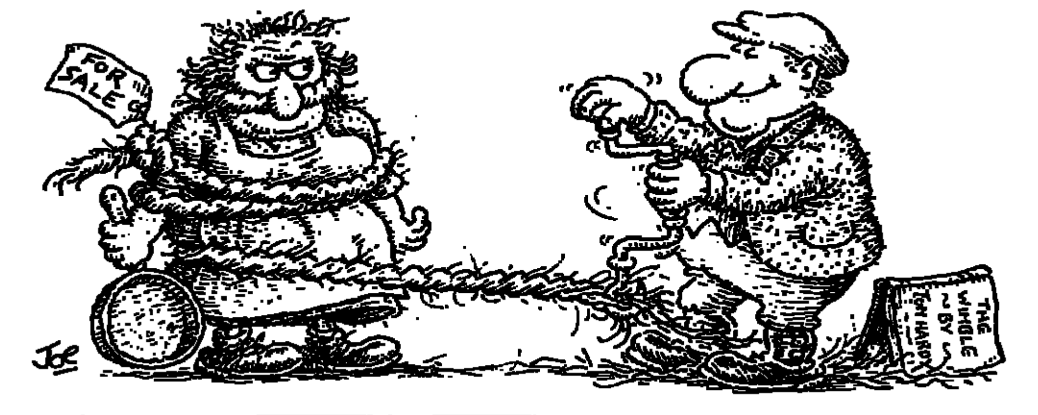
If the day should ever dawn when I sit down to write my classic Victorian novel, a saga of bitter farming struggles against the elements, a tale where the passionate heavings in the barn are counterpointed by the groans of men ruined by the land, I shall not make the same mistake as some eminent authors who have gone before me.

The problem is that what I am looking for in a great agricultural novel is not quite the same as what the average reader seeks. Most will be looking for strong narrative, atmosphere, characters with whom they can identify, a thread of steamy romance which they can share through all its ups and downs. I am looking for none of these things: I am looking for instructions.

Take Thomas Hardy, for example. The way we farm here, with carthorses and pitchforks, is not all that far removed from the methods of farming that were being used in 1886 when *The Mayor of Casterbridge* was published. In fact, I watched the television version of that famous novel over Christmas and found the farming scenes uncomfortably close to home. So that book in particular, and others written around that time, are effectively my instruction manuals. The trouble is, the author could never have guessed that they would be used as much a century later, and so they lack vital detail.

For the benefit of future generations, my novel will make no such errors. This issue arose as a result of the onset of winter and the need to feed the cattle with hay. Unusually for this farm, things have worked out much better than planned over the past couple of years, and I find myself one haystack ahead of the season.

This satisfactory state of affairs results from a bumper crop two years ago which gave us two fine stacks, only one of which was consumed last winter. Even better, hay is reckoned to improve with age, so we have the grassy equivalent of a vintage wine just coming to maturity. I uncorked the stack last week.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JOE

Ah, the bouquet; the scents of summer that are re-created the instant the thatch is removed! *Thatch*, notice. No plastic sheets which might have kept the outside drier, but would have ruined the hay by allowing it to sweat. No, my thatch has lasted a winter and a half through some of the wettest weather we have ever experienced, and I can put my hand on my heart and declare the hay to be every bit as good, if not better, than the day that we built the stack 18 months ago.

While standing atop the stack, forking away the straw so that I could plunge the hay knife into it and start to cut a slice, I wondered whether I was going about this the right way. There have been endless words written on the building of haystacks, but hardly anything has been written about taking them down again.

Then I remembered that Hardy's Michael Henchard, the eventual Mayor of Casterbridge, started his working career cutting hay. It says so at the beginning of chapter one: "'Any trade doing here?' he asked phlegmatically. 'Anything in the hay-trussing line?'" So it was not only a skill: it was a profession in its own right. I searched the chapter for more details.

The method I employ is one of simply cutting the hay and flinging it on to the cart for the horse to pull to the stockyard. Not particularly skilled work: but could it be that there is more to it? "At his back he carried by a loop strap a rush basket, from which protruded at one end the crutch of a hayknife, a wimble for haybonds also being visible from the aperture." These are good clues. I have a hay-knife and, strangely enough, a wimble too. It is a device rather like a small brace and bit, but with a hook at one end. It is for making ropes out of straw: one man twists while another feeds long straw into the growing rope. It is another of those jobs to which there is far more knack than description.

So, it would appear, I have all the tools I need to be able to call myself a hay-trusser, except the skill. This is where Hardy is a serious letdown. We have page after page crammed with the sale of his wife and the passionate pursuit of Mrs. Farfrae, but at no stage does he get out his wimble and perform the vital task of trussing some hay.

I have even consulted tomes written before Hardy, and although one warns not to cut too large a slice of hay from the stack at any one time "for fear of exposing it to the elements", not one of these books reveals the secrets of the trusser's art. What did they do? What was it about the job that drove them to get plastered on furmity and sell their wives? *Someone must know.*

Cherished traditions may be far less ancient than we think

DOC ROWE

The horns in the Abbots Bromley Horn Dance date from the 11th century, Doc Rowe says. But the earliest record of the dance he has found is in 1686

Rhubarb and customs?

Britain is awash with customs. Tomorrow, for example, sees cradle rocking — when the male child born closest to last Christmas is rocked throughout the service at St Mary of the Purification, Blidworth, near Mansfield in Nottinghamshire — and the afternoon "clowns' service" — when red-nosed folk in enormous shoes commemorate the death of the clown Grimaldi at Holy Trinity, Dalston, in the East End of London.

Ancient and not-so-ancient ceremonies pack the calendar. White-robed figures parade around Stonehenge, hobby-horses gallop around the West Country, and everywhere can be heard the tinkling of morris dancers' bells.

The British Tourist Authority has a 60-page list of customs still celebrated: some folk events are described as being ancient or of pagan origin; the origins of others are referred to only vaguely.

For instance, on Milk-a-Punch Sunday in the Channel Island of Alderney, "in days gone by" the first Sabbath in May meant you could milk anyone's cow and take their eggs. And Etwall Well Dressing, the ceremony in Derbyshire in which flowers are put around the well, "dates back several centuries".

We've grown accustomed to these customs. But are they any more traditional than a motorbike rally in Birmingham or a sponsored bed-pushing competition in Basildon? According to D.R. ("Doc") Rowe, a committee member of both the Folklore Society and the Oral History Society, and a dedicated observer of customs, tourist boards often misrepresent the age of the customs.

Britannia Coconut dancers in Bacup, Lancashire

Take Maypole dancing. Doc Rowe points out that the plaiting of the maypole, when young dancers whirl round it with long ribbons, does not date from the nation's Celtic past. Admittedly, maypoles themselves, often trees perpetually denuded of their leaves, are of unquestioned antiquity, and were the central focus for May Day festivities. But the earliest reference to the plaiting of ribbons is on November 28, 1836, when the supporting cast in the Victoria Theatre in the West End needed to be given something to do.

Doc Rowe's flat, in unrural Holborn, London, bulges with his photographs, tapes and videos of the real folk behind the folklore. "There are people who think that if I come along and take photographs," he laughs, "it makes the event traditional. I've been to about 160 traditional events, and for 32 years I have been recording oral testimony. I have listened to people in their nineties. A lot of their family testimony, via parents and grandparents, can go back to the 1750s."

It was the intensity of the community's involvement in the Padstow Hobby Horse on May 1 which started him off 32 years ago, he recalls. "The earliest description of a performance in Padstow was around 1846."

Doc Rowe maintains that a few rural customs can be traced back nearly 1,000 years. "We have disapproving references to 'Mummings' and 'Morryssing' in the 8th century, although the references do not say what participants did or what costume, if any, there was," he says.

In other words, the appearance of any given "old" custom may well have changed radically over the years. This is certainly the case in the annual "Hunting of the Earl of Rone", held on May 29. The ceremony, in which a make-believe aristocrat is paraded on a donkey and chucked into the waves, fell into abeyance.

"1837 was the last time it was noted," says Doc Rowe, who last year went to Combe Martin, Devon, for the ceremony.

The Straw Bear parades through Whittlesey

"Then in 1974 a reconstruction, rather than a revival, took place." Today the procession observes a brief silence as it passes the spot where in the 1830s a reveller named Lovering, who was watching the procession, fell off a wall and died; this was probably the excuse for the local Baptist minister to have the earl-hunting ritual banned.

Another custom which has been more recently revived is the Straw Bear of Whittlesey, in Cambridgeshire. The tradition, in which a resident walks the streets wearing a costume of straw to celebrate the return to work on the land on the first Saturday in January, died out early this century but was revived about 15 years ago.

There is still more confusion about the origins of a Staffordshire rite in which six men leap about carrying enormous antlers. Doc Rowe, who has been attending the rite for 21 years says: "You can actually carbon date the horns of the Abbots Bromley Horn Dance back to the 11th century." But the earliest record of the dance that Doc Rowe has been able to trace is in 1686.

Nineteenth-century scholars imposed what Doc Rowe feels is a rigid interpretation of whatever they saw. Folklore became folk law. "The folklorists came along in the 1890s and often gathered information secondhand — from the vicar's wife, for example, instead of peering over hedges and talking to locals."

Some outsiders have the nerve to lecture the folk who carry out the customs: "I've met folk enthusiasts who say they're doing it wrong. New Age 'pagans' at these events frequently search for a link with druids, earth mothers and water spirits — for which there is no evidence."

What matters to Doc, however, is that the ritual happens. He believes folklore should be fun: "A celebration of ourselves, either as a community or as individuals, is why people join in.

"I've seen events at which people who are enjoying themselves suddenly do something spontaneous, like stick greenery in their hat. I go back the next year, and another person will do it. Before long, they will call it 'traditional'. The exciting thing is that I was there at its inception."

JONATHAN SALE

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- ☐ **May 1: Arthur's Seat Service, Edinburgh. Citizens climb the mound to watch sunrise.**
- ☐ **May 1 to 3: Minehead Hobby Horse, Minehead, Somerset.**
- ☐ **May 7: Helston Flora Dance, Helston, Cornwall. Dancing all day.**
- ☐ **August 11: The Burry Man, South Queensferry, Lothian. Parade of a man covered in burrs.**
- ☐ **November 4: Carrying the Tar Barrels, Ottery St Mary, Devon. Heaving flaming barrels.**
- ☐ **November 11: Wroth Silver Ceremony, Knightlow Hill, Stretton-on-Dunsmore, near Rugby. Rent money is dropped into a hollow stone at dawn.**

● Spring *and other school packs by Doc Rowe, published by the English Folk Dance & Song Society, 2 Regent's Park Road, London NW1 7AY (£9.95 inc p&p) 0171 485 2206.*

Tasty young salmon — a meal to die for

Feather report

ALONG the west coast of Scotland just now, you may come across a little flock of strange-looking duck in a tranquil inlet or on an island shore. They fly up quickly and, as they head out over the sea, look extraordinarily thin and elongated. This is because they have long, flat-topped heads, and stretch their necks out absolutely straight when they fly — unlike most ducks, which dip their heads and necks when they are in the air.

These somewhat dragon-like birds are red-breasted mergansers. They are birds with, to my mind, an obscure and misleading name. "Merganser" is an English word coined from Latin in the 16th century, and means "diving goose". But although it dives, the merganser is not a goose — it is a duck of the group known as sawbills, because they have little teeth along the inside edges of their beak to hold the wriggling fish that they catch.

The "red-breasted" part of the name can also give a wrong impression. These duck have nothing in common with a "robin redbreast". The band on their breast is more of a chestnut-brown colour. However, it is helpful in identifying a merganser when you see one far away on the water. It distinguishes it at once from its somewhat similar relative the goosander, which is gleaming white on the breast and flanks.

The merganser's most striking feature is its double crest. The drake's head is green, the female's head is reddish-brown, but both have two stiff points protruding from the back of the head, one above the other. These tufts are very conspicuous if you get a good view of the birds swimming. In fact I would like to rename the species "the tuning-fork-crested toothbeak".

The dragon-like red-breasted merganser

They can be found in small numbers all round the coast in winter, but their headquarters are in west Scotland, and the birds that breed there mostly stay along those shores. However, their range is expanding southwards, and since 1950 they have been nesting regularly in the Lake District and North Wales. They make their nests not far from the shore in heather or brambles; sometimes they use rabbit holes. A few go far inland, and nest on river banks or by the edge of silent lochs. The ducklings join up in parties, often in the care of a single female, and a flock of 51 ill-supervised babes has been recorded.

There is no doubt that they like eating young salmon in spring, and they are shot both legally and illegally, as are goosanders — but all studies show that salmon numbers are not materially affected by what the birds take

In February, wher the sea is calm, the males start courtin the females. The swim in front o them, throwing thei heads back an showing off the re inside their beaks then they bow t their prospectiv mates. Much wing flapping and splash ing accompanies th performance.

By the beginnin of spring, they wi be in pairs, spendin more time on land. Like th other sawbills, they are nim ble on their feet compare with the waddling mallards. I is good news that such an odd attractive bird is doing so well

DERWENT MA

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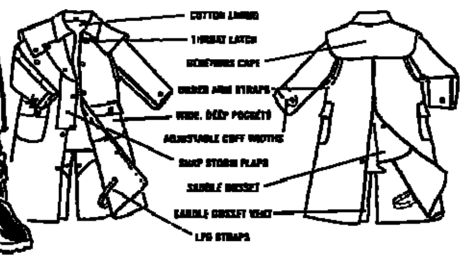
● *Robin Jacques is away.*



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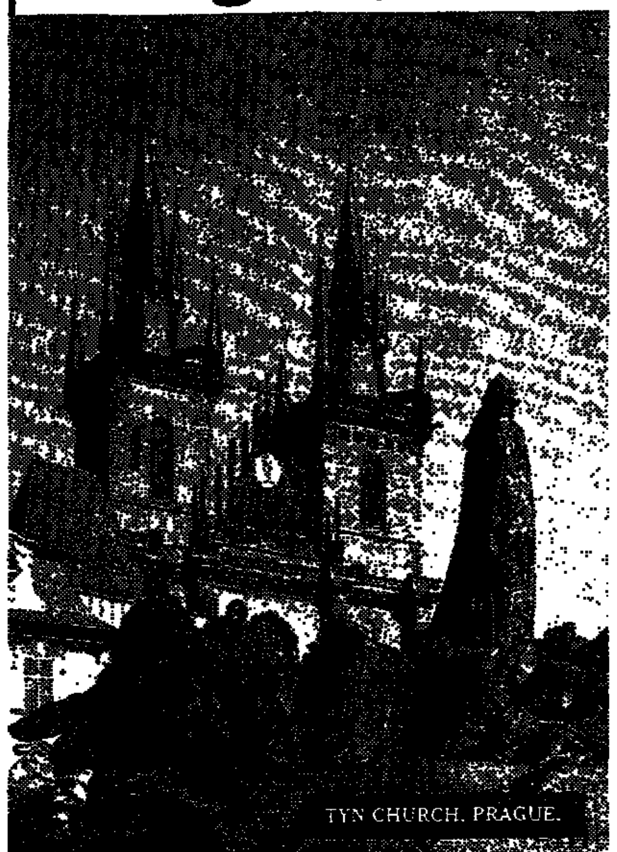

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SPAIN: The pine-covered headlands and medieval towns of Catalonia elude the advancing tide of concrete

Still lovely after all these years

Find a road map of Spain and trace your finger round the coastline. For virtually its entire length, the *costas* and *golfos* of the Iberian peninsular are shadowed by the thick red and orange lines that mark main roads and motorways. Along the heavily built-up Costa Del Sol and Costa Blanca the motorway is hardly ever more than a few hundred yards from the beach.

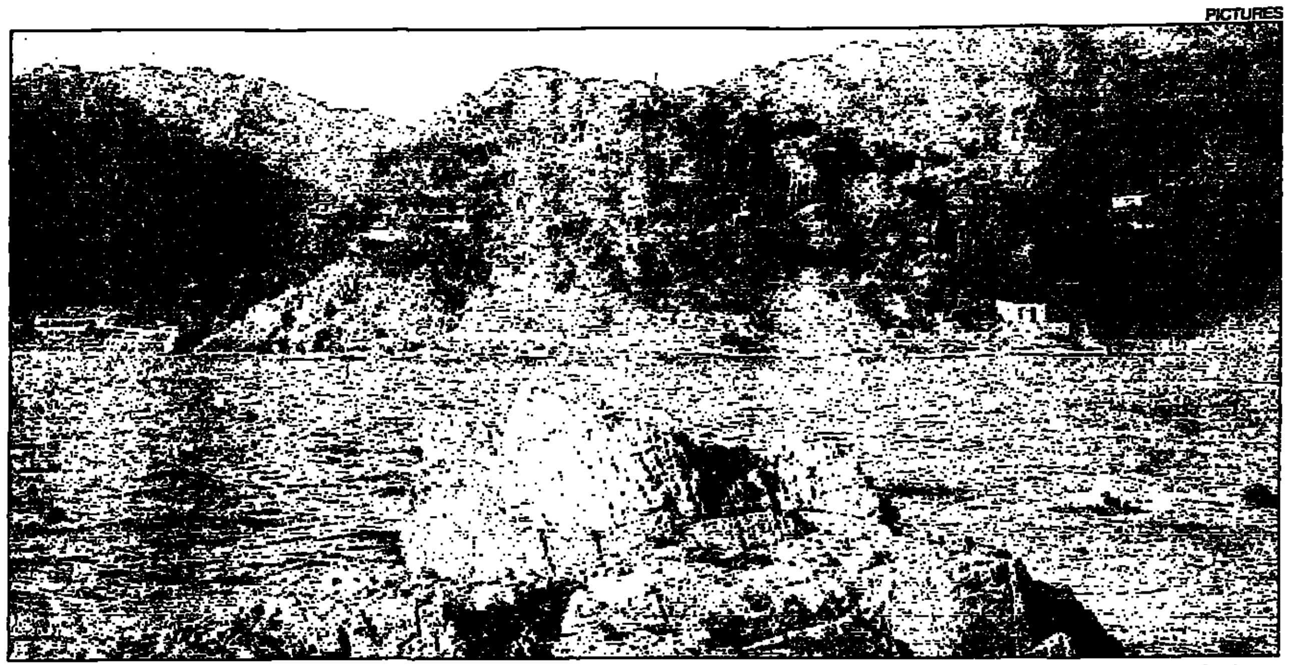
Now look further north to the Mediterrean coast of Catalonia near the French border. Here, the main road is forced by the hilly terrain to swing ten or 20 miles inland past the towns of Girona and Figueras. In places, there is no coastal road at all.

This single topographical fact has helped to save pockets of this gorgeous coastline from the excesses of development that have wreaked such destruction elsewhere. But only pockets. This coast is better known as the Costa Brava and its tackiest resorts can rival anything Benidorm and Torremolinos have to offer in the lager lout and "tea like yer mum makes it" stakes. However, the ten-mile stretch north of Palamós is a gem, where pine-covered headlands studded with *millionaires' villas* alternate with sandy coves and fishing hamlets.

A medieval hill town

The string of fishing villages east of the unexceptional town of Palafrugell are the highlight of the Catalonian coastline. From Calella in the south to Sa Riera in the north they are all wholly unspoilt, partly because the surrounding cliffs and hills leave no room for tourist sprawl. All have their qualities but my favourite is Lafranc, where a tree and café-lined street next to the beach adds sophistication to an idyllic location.

PICTURES


Huge holiday complexes have not yet defiled the coastline of Aiguablava — accommodation here consists mainly of villas

Accommodation on this coast is mainly low-rise apartments and villas. One of the few modern hotels, the four-star Hotel Parador at Aiguablava has what must be one of the most stunning locations in all of Spain. Perched precariously on a headland above the village it is surrounded on three sides by sheer cliffs. From its terraces guests can gaze straight down a dizzying 300 feet to the surface of the clear aquamarine water and then another 30 feet to the sandy sea bed below.

To the north near Pals the coast opens up and the coves and cliffs make way for long windswept stretches of sand. Development has been concentrated in the holiday encampment of Platje, a sprawling expanse of villas, golf courses, hotels and camp sites. However, this has had the advantage of leaving the surrounding countryside of rolling fields and medieval hill towns almost unmarked by modern holiday development.

The region is oozing with history, having been under the influence of the Greeks, the Romans, the Moors, the French and the Castillian Spaniards during the past 3,000 years. The early influences are best explored at the ruins of Empúries, where coastal vineyards were cleared to reveal the well-preserved remains of a Greek settlement and a far larger Roman town that had been built virtually on the same site.

Empúries is Spain's equivalent of Pompeii but, unlike the more illustrious but woefully neglected Italian ruins, it has been immaculately restored. The mosaics, in particular, are worth making the visit for.

Many of the medieval hilltowns of Catalonia are living museums in their own right. Some — Pals is a good example — are so perfectly preserved and artfully floodlit they are in danger of crossing the line that separates romantic from twee. Others, such as Peratellada, where the grooves worn by cartwheels are visible in the cobbles, still have just the right amount of crumbling masonry. Perhaps most impressive of all is Besalú in the foothills of the Pyrenees.

The region is also rich in contemporary culture. The Salvador Dalí museum at the artist's birthplace of Figueres is a vast, cerise citadel rather like a garish Moorish fort. But instead of battlements, gigantic ostrich eggs top the parapets and the central atrium is covered by a huge glass dome.

And the outside is the sensible bit. Inside, it gets really odd. But there is wonderful civility amongst the madness. In summer the museum opens between 10pm and 12.30am, the only part of the day when it is cool enough to consider going to a gallery.

If the museum doesn't slake your thirst for modern art there is always a day trip to Barcelona, with the extraordinary modernist architectural creations of Antonio Gaudi. The pulsating capital city of Catalonia is only an hour and a half south of Girona on the motorway.

This mixture of sand, history and culture means that Catalonia deserves more than a two-week flop in the sun. August, therefore, should be avoided. Then, the roads are swarming with wealthy Germans and French behind the wheels of their BMWs and Mercedes, and it is just too hot. By mid-September, the worst of the heat is over but the sea is still perfect for swimming.

JONATHAN PRYNN

Getting there

☐ The author was a guest of Spanish Harbour Holidays (0117 9869777) and PCI Holidays (0305 835835).

☐ Accommodation: a week self-catering on the Costa Brava costs from £165 for a two-person apartment in low season up to about £1,500 for a ten-person villa in peak season. Hotels in the Costa Brava fishing villages cost from £130 per person per week for two-star B&B off peak. A night at the four-star Parador in Aiguablava costs £39 B&B a person January-March; £55 July-October.

☐ Flights: Heathrow to Barcelona return, with Iberia (0171-830 0011), costs from £140 in May to £190 in August.

Search out the hidden gems of Dalí's land

Much of the Costa Brava has been overdeveloped and resorts such as Lloret de Mar and Palamós now offer little more to the tourist than a cluster of tacky nightclubs and fast-food restaurants.

Yet Catalonia offers so much to visitors, from impressive cities rich in art and culture to diverse landscapes and a sunny climate. There are places, such as Santa Cristina, where you can enjoy all this, as well as an unspoilt coastline.

Santa Cristina, although only minutes south of the ghastly Lloret de Mar, is a small, quiet and peaceful bay. Perched among pine trees on the hillside is the only hotel in the bay, the Santa Marta, a member of the Relais & Châteaux consortium. Surrounded by gardens, well-kept terraces and untouched hillsides, guests can enjoy the seclusion of a hotel that is untainted by the chaotic sprawl of tourist developments near by. It is also an ideal base from which to explore the region.

The hotel is simple but pleasant, and the rooms spacious and comfortable. A long winding path descends steeply through the shady pines to the swimming pool, games room, tennis courts and beachside restaurant.

> ‘There is a wealth of culture and art in the region’

As the inevitable pleasure boats arrive every hour with hordes of daytrippers from nearby resorts, the beach gets crowded, but the hotel provides a large area of sunbeds next to the swimming pool for those who appreciate more spacious sunbathing. The buffet lunch offered by the Santa Marta included a vast array of fresh seafood, fish and other Catalan delicacies. For a cheaper option, there are beach cafés along the bay.

When sunbathing becomes boring, it is worth hiring a car and doing some exploring. The town of Figueras near the French border is more than an hour's drive away but as the birthplace of Salvador Dali, and home to the excellent Dali Museum, it is well worth a visit. The museum is original and spectacular and is the only one in Europe dedicated exclusively to his work.

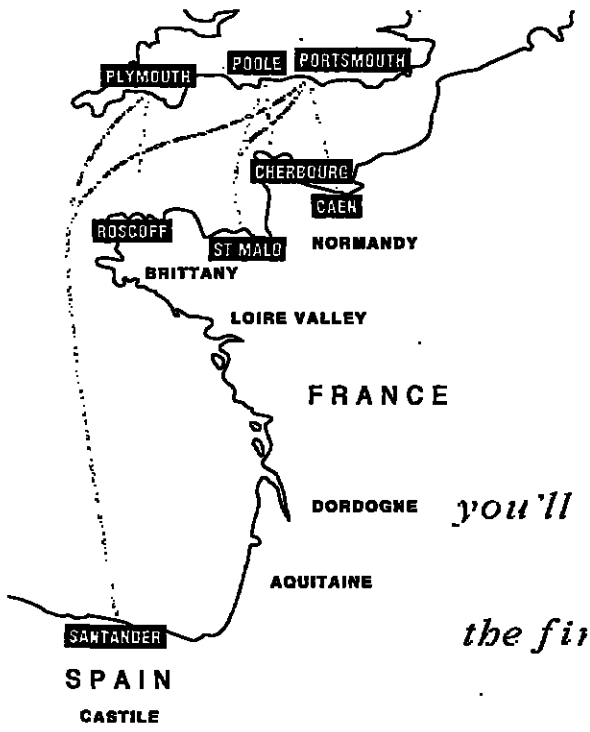
Girona's Gothic cathedral

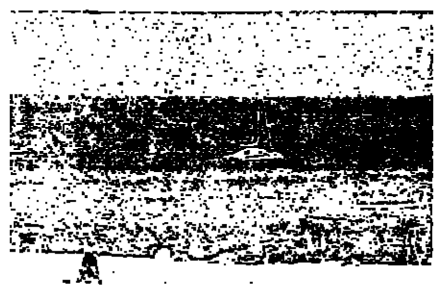
En route to Figueras, it is worth stopping in Girona, a beautiful town with an impressive Gothic cathedral that has the widest unsupported Gothic arch in the world. Archaeology buffs can stop off at Empúries and visit the well-preserved ruins of this Greco-Roman city.

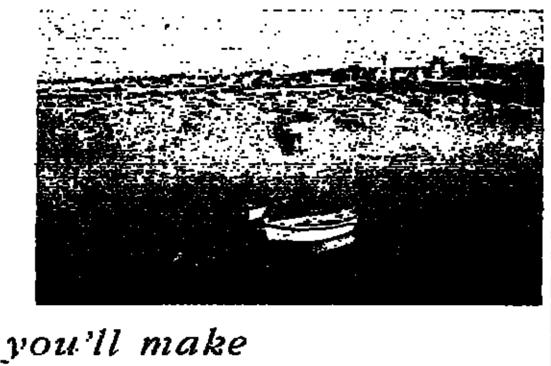
After a longer drive, the buzzing, vibrant city of Barcelona is another holiday in itself. Wander around the old parts of the city, visit the Picasso Museum and don't miss Gaudi's Park Güell or his unfinished cathedral. It is hard to be disappointed by Catalonia. Although there are areas to avoid, parts of the coast remain as beautiful and as natural as they were 50 years ago, and with a wealth of culture and art that is hard to beat.

TESSA MACARTHUR

● *The author was a guest of the Santa Marta hotel where rates range from about £75 (15,000 pesetas) to about £132 (26,500 pesetas) for room only depending on season and accommodation. Prices include service charges but are subject to a 7 per cent tax. Tel: 01034 72364904; fax: 01034 72369280. Brochures can be obtained from the Relais & Chateaux London office on 0171-287 0987; fax: 0171-437 0241.*







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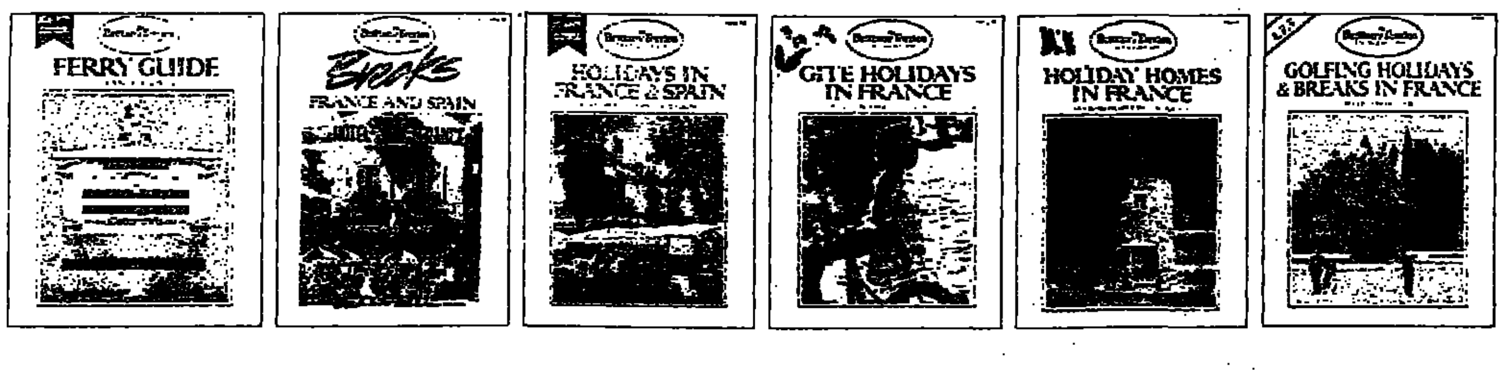

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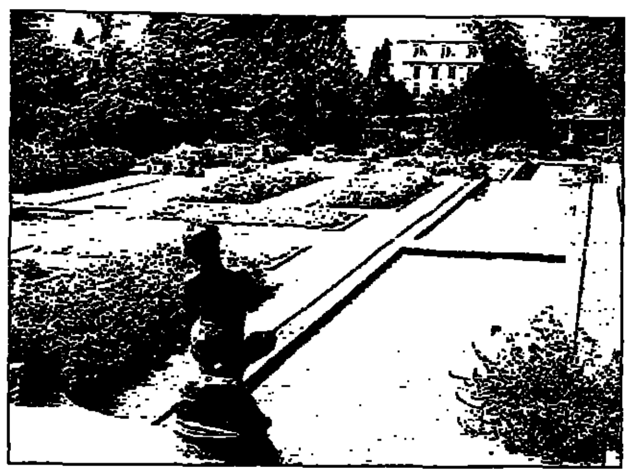
SPECIALIST BREAKS: **Jill Crawshaw** examines the options for those who want a holiday with a purpose

Trifle with truffles or sail the ocean blue



The gardens of Villa Taranto at Lake Maggiore, Italy

Truffles, Orchids, Bikes and Walking Boots

THE 14 GUESTS on Alternative Travel's "Great Truffle Hunt" found 100 of the parasitic mushrooms during their week in Umbria — the finest of these, the Tuber *melanosporum*, is in season between November and March — at other times the hunt is on for the Tuber *aestivum*.

The week's holiday, based in the medieval town of Morcia, includes the truffle hunting accompanied by hunters, dogs and occasionally even pigs, with visits to the market at Alba and to the wine estates of Barolo and Barbera. Accommodation, all food and wine, (but not flights) are included in the £735 price.

Up to 30 or 40 of Europe's 250 species of orchid have been spotted by holidaymakers on the firm's Great Orchid Hunts, which take place in Sicily, the Gargano Penisula and Monti Sibillini in Italy, and cost from £695 a week (full board and wine, flights not included).

Walking and cycling holidays are also organised by Alternative Travel, largely to Italy, Spain and France, but also to Bohemia: a ten-day Cycling in Bohemia trip takes an unusual route through countryside reminiscent of much of Europe 50 years ago. The tour, which covers between ten and 34 miles a day, costs £775, including food and wine. Flights are extra, and can be booked through the tour operaters.

Alternative Travel Group: 01865 513333.

Turkish Cooking

TURKISH cuisine is said to be among the greatest in the world. Simply Turkey offers a number of cookery courses in early May and in October, based at the restored village of Ocakkoy, which has a swimming pool, and the famous Olu Deniz beach near by.

The course includes trips to the market, cookery lessons including "olive oil dishes", seafood cookery, minced meat dishes and pickle-making, with visits to restaurants and kitchens in the area. Accommodation is on a B&B basis, and the two-week holiday costs £645, including flights.

The company also offers painting tours and walking holidays based on Ocakkoy, costing £785 (two weeks half board including flights) and £525 (one week, half-board including flights). There are no single supplements.

Simply Turkey: 0181-747 1011.

Corsican Specialities

CORSICAN PLACES has an interesting range of special-interest holidays: the new wine tour is not perhaps for the most serious winebuffs, but Corsica's vineyards are some of the most beautifully and dramatically situated in France. Wine has been produced on the island for about 2,000 years, particularly the sweet muscat from the Nebbio and Cap Corse, and the *rose gris* from Partrimonic and the Balagna. The week's visit in May, with flights, tours and most meals, costs £625.

Horse riding also offers a chance to see the interior of the island. Rides follow the tracks between medieval villages, and the ancient paths that shepherds still use to lead their flocks from the coastal valley up into the mountains in summer. Prices for a week cost from £450-£765, including flights, based on self-catering accommodation.

More energetic pursuits include scuba diving, sailing and canyoning — the descent of a river valley using ropes and the natural water-chutes created by the river. An introductory course costs £27, a full day out £50.

Corsican Places: 01424 774366.

Gentle Pursuits

GENTLER activity and hobby holidays are offered by Inntravel in the kind of hotels and villages that most travellers would like to discover (and keep for themselves), among the French vineyards, the bastide villages of the Lot, in the Dolomites, the hills of Catalonia and the Provençal countryside.

Themes include "Art in the Tarn", "Cheesemaking in the Jura", "The Wild Flowers of the Cerdagne", as well as cookery holidays (mostly in France), where small groups watch the chef at work on local specialities and try to recreate them.

Inntravel has a new brochure of riding holidays in France, Spain and Austria, for all abilities, from challenging week-long trails to farmhouse-based centres for learners. Some treks are accompanied; on others you can ride independently for about five hours a day, and stay each night at a farm or *gite*.

For a taste of trail-riding, a three-night, half-board weekend in Normandy, based at St Vaast near Cherbourg, offers about 40 miles of riding, between traditional Normandy lunches. It costs £295-£301 per person, including ferry crossing for car.

A week's holiday in Andalucia's Finca los Romeros, with five hours' riding each day (three in high summer), and a visit to the Royal Equestrian School at Jerez costs £686-£879 full board, including flights.

Inntravel: 01653 628811.

Windjamming

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Starting from Maine, New England's largest maritime state, the *Heritage* anchors each night in a different harbour. Itineries are governed by the weather, and the wishes of the passengers. Prices start from £979, which includes full board on the five-day cruise, one night in a four-star Boston hotel, car hire and return scheduled flights. Guests do not need to be experienced sailors.

Walking, whale watching and cycling holidays are other options in New England.

Osprey Holidays: 0131-557 1555.

Discovery Holidays

THE TRAVEL Club of Upminster's programme of "Discovery Holidays" — mainly out of season — is relaxed rather than rigorous, aimed at holidaymakers who pick their favourite resorts but want to do more than just lie on the beach.

There are Spring Gardening Tours to the Italian Lakes and Madeira. The Italian tours are based on the lovely, largely unknown Lake Orta, with visits to Villa Taranto and Lake Maggiore, the Isola Bella and Isola Madre, and to the Villa Ciocogna — Mozonni in Varese (from £588, half board, flights included.)

Alternatively you can discover the spectacular gardens of Madeira, from £644 for one week half board, rounding off the trip with a traditional wicker-toboggan ride. Other Discovery Tours include The Levada Walks in Madeira: Majorca and Menorca in May — where anyone who dismisses these islands as mere pop spots will be pleasantly surprised by the scenery and wildlife (£578 half board, one week). All flights included.

The Travel Club of Upminster: 01708 225000.

Peloponnese by Rail

BOTANY, archeological and painting tours are organised in several locations by the Greek specialists Filoxenia. The company's most unusual one is the 497-mile "Peloponnese Narrow Gauge Railway Tour" in June, along the longest metre gauge railway in Europe.

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Among the highlights are the section the Greeks call "the evil staircase" — along the ledge in the steep cliffs overhanging the Gulf of Aegina, considered some of the finest railway scenery in the world — and the dramatic descent through the Kalavrita Gorge.

The week's half board holiday including flights, costs £719, and can be combined with a week in Tolo for an extra £214.

Filoxenia: 01422 375999.

Real Holidays

THE 1995 *Aito Directory of Real Holidays*, which includes the programmes of 150 independent travel companies, has a large and useful section on special-interest holidays. Discover the World (016977 48361), for example, offers a nine-day polar bear-watching holiday in Canada, £1,598, including flights and B&B. There are also horse-drawn carriage tours through Bavaria, archery breaks and husky sledging in Lapland, Greenland and the Yukon.

Aito (Association of Independent Tour Operators) members are all bonded to provide financial protection for travellers.

The brochure can be obtained by phoning 0891 515948. Calls cost 40p a minute cheap rate, 50p a minute at all other times.

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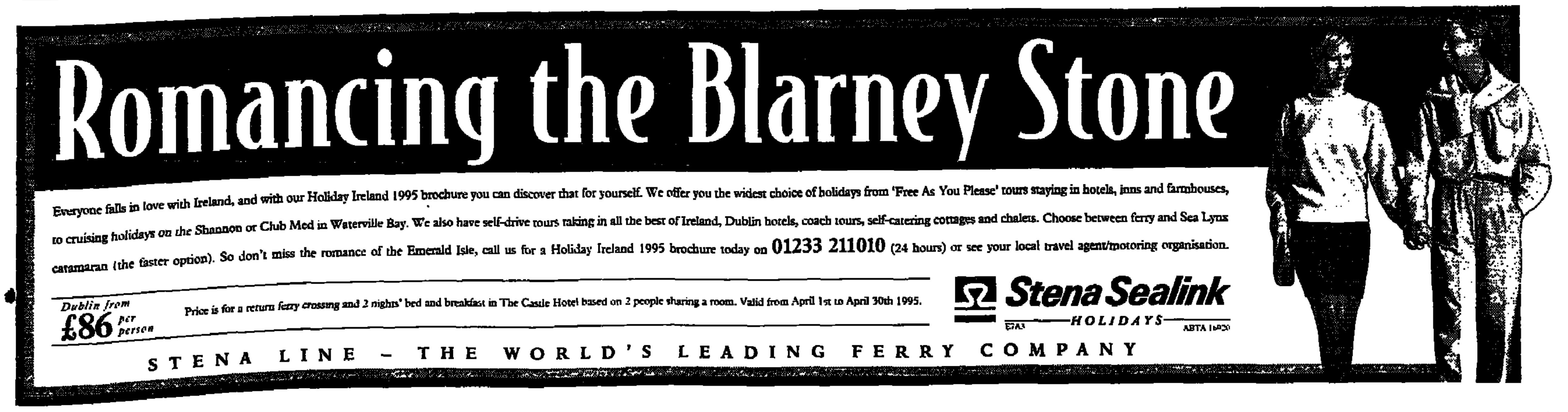

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A quick waltz down the green Danube

When he was 19, Patrick Leigh Fermor set out to make a journey on foot across Europe. In *A Time of Gifts*, written partly from memory nearly half a century later, a kind of composite *Schloss*, the sort he often stayed in on the Danube, begins to form in his mind. Books and sheet music — the lieder of Schubert and Strauss and Hugo Wolf — are scattered carelessly on casemented window seats: *aperitifs* arrive in the form of incomparable nectars, their bottles still dusty from ancient cellars. At night, candles and paraffin lamps light him to bed along dim, antlered corridors where, lulled by the smell of logs and beeswax and lavender, he pores over priceless atlases and manuscripts, pressed lovingly into his arms by his polyglot hosts, culled from libraries of fabulous provenance and age. Frankly, it's enough to make you spit.

But this was, after all, in 1933. In those days, the Danube was still one of the wildest rivers in Europe, its forests haunted by wolves and ghosts and will-o'-the-wisps. Monstrous catfish with tiny eyes and Hapsburg chins drifted through the waters, so big they were capable of swallowing a poodle, whole.

Today, harnessed by hydroelectric plants, the Danube is not exactly the municipal waterworks Leigh Fermor feared it might become, but still more canal than cataract. And, another thing: it isn't blue, it's green.

Beethoven: musical feast

I know all this because I went there with Martin Randall Travel on a river cruise — a week-long "Festival of Music and Architecture". With more than a dozen concerts and as many lectures in abbeys, palaces and country houses, principally along the Austrian stretch of the Danube, the tour was billed as the finest holiday ever for art and music lovers.

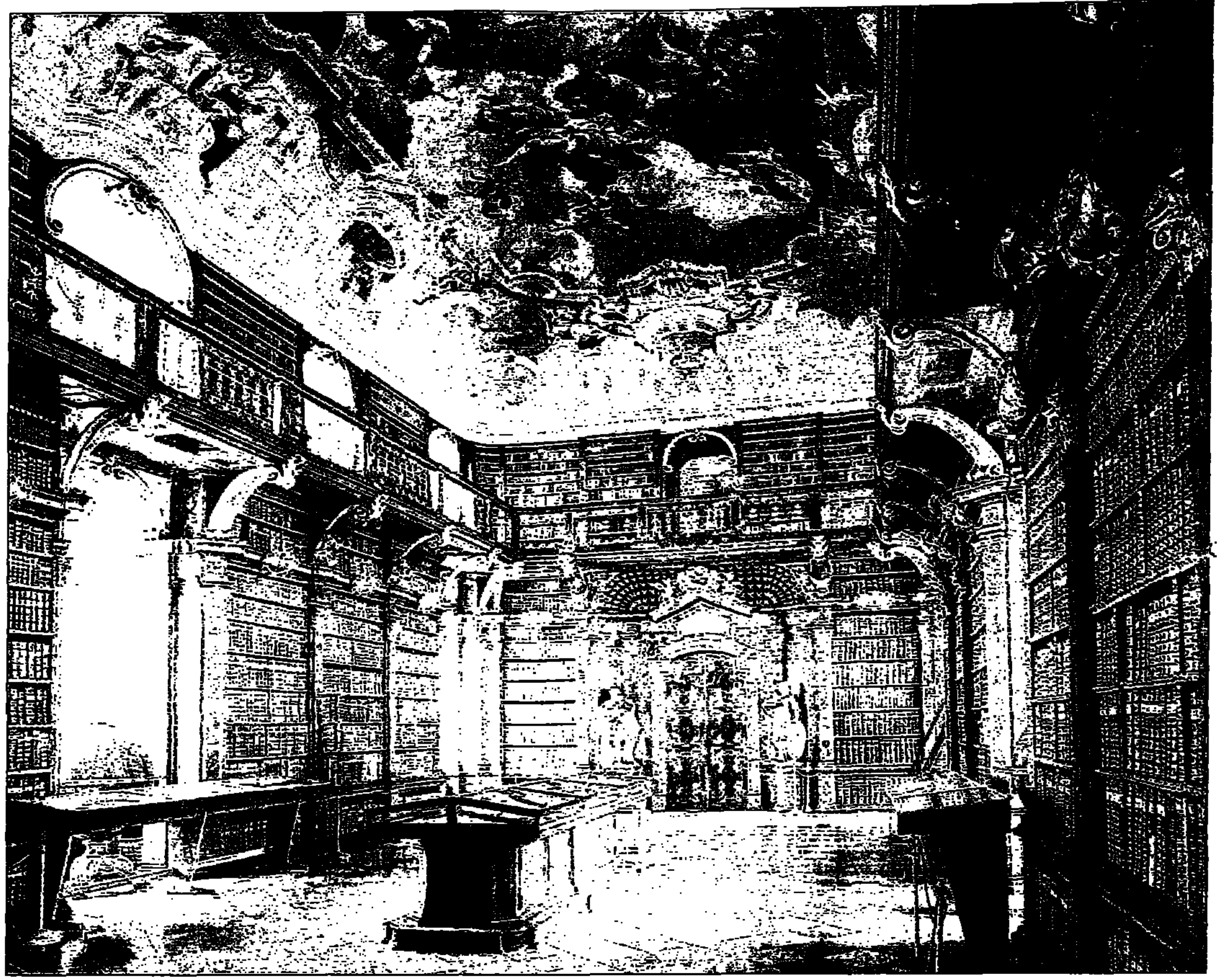
We started at Passau, in Germany, an ancient princely bishopric at the confluence of three rivers: the Danube, the Ilz and the Inn. Our first concert that evening was an organ recital in the cathedral, one of Central Europe's earliest major baroque buildings. The organ is the largest church organ in the world: it has 17.774 pipes. The sound it makes is a visceral thing, as much bodily sensation as pure music. To the strains of Mozart, Karl Höller and Liszt, in the vast eliptical domes above us swarms of chubby white putti peeped out from cornices, cavorting between garlands of lacy stucco fruit.

That night our Bulgarian river cruiser, the *Rousse*, swept downriver into Austria, and we woke the following morning next to the little town of Grein. Grein is said to be onomatopoeic for the laments of a sailor who once drowned in a whirlpool near these shores. He was left to die, so the story goes, as a propitiatory offering to some unnamed Teutonic god, although his ghost, if he ever had one, was swept out long ago by the energetic broom of some rich burger's wife.

You could eat off the streets in Grein (as you could in Linz, Tulln and Dürnstein, the other towns on our itinerary). As a more cheerful alternative, I went for *Sachetorte* and coffee at the Kaffeesiederi Blumensträu in the main square. Sitting on the terrace, overlooked by a fairy-tale castle, I tried to imagine (as Leigh Fermor did) a winter canvas here: something austere and icy. But Brueghel-esque peasants stooped under faggot-loads, and children spinning tops and blowing on frozen mittened fingers, disappeared from these Danube lands about the same time as the catfish.

Instead, there's something unnervingly Toy Town about these little squares, with their spires and fountains and prosperous sugar-almond merchants' houses. What begins as an echo from the *Nibelungenlied* ends up, curiously, like a stage set from the *Nutcracker Suite*.

ÖSTERREICH WERBUNG


Built by monks in the 18th century, the Benedictine Abbey of Melk is a set of palatial buildings containing a magnificent baroque library

The Benedictine Abbey of Melk is another matter. You first see it, as you are meant to do, from the river. It hovers up like some Brobdingnagian conceit out of a massive outcrop of rock. Recognising no authority other than the person of the Hapsburg Emperor himself, in the 18th century the monks built with a feverish rush of Counter Reformation blood to the head. They commissioned a series of palatial buildings, complete with imperial apartments (the Emperor used them, as he did at Melk's sister monastery, Göttweig, rather like 25-star hotels), to produce one of Europe's greatest baroque treasures.

I loved Melk for its library, and for the view, and for a brief glimpse, in among a team of identically lycra-suited Italian cyclists, of a real, live monk. From the balustrades, we looked down over a great curve of the river, fringed with willows and poplars, which in the afternoon light turned that thin, smokey colour so peculiar to the banks of the Danube, and delicate silvery blue.

Another day, another concert. In Vienna, it was Mozart and Beethoven at the Schönbrunn and Auersperg Palaces. At Schloss Kittsee, near the border of the Slovak Republic, the New Budapest String Quartet played Bartók, Dvořák and Haydn. At Atzenbrugg, a short drive from Tulln, we listened to a Schubertiade in a small whitewashed manor house, perfectly cool and shaded by walnut trees, where the composer himself often stayed during the summer months.

No holiday for slovens, this. There was a pool and sun deck on the *Rousse*, but barely time to use them. At our lectures, the first of which began at the daunting hour of 8.30, we learnt to distinguish between Early, High and Late Baroque; to recognise a Rococo flourish; to trace the Byzantine twists of the Hapsburg family tree.

By this time, alliances had been formed, and even friendships, among our hundred-strong group. At lunch and dinner we ate our way through 65 courses in all. The tour celebrity, Claus von Bulow, had been duly noticed — even if his exact identity was sometimes a little slower in coming. "I'd just like to say," breathed a star-struck Japanese woman to him one day, "how *very* much I enjoyed your film . . ." But that, as they say, is another story.

The moments when art and life become perfectly merged are rare. Our last concert, given by the Collegium Viennensis in the great Marble Hall of the Augustinian monastery of St Florian, was one of them. With the windows wide open on to a balmy summer night, the sound of Mozart's *Gran Partita* seemed to hover in the air long after the last notes had been played, shimmering upwards into the highest reaches of one of the greatest baroque structures ever built, a symphony of gold leaf, marble, and blue and pink *trompe l'oeil*-ed saints.

This may have been 1994, but in its own way, it was still a time of gifts.

KATIE HICKMAN

Fact file

☐ The author was a guest of Martin Randall Travel, specialists in art, architecture, archaeology and music tours.

☐ The Danube, A Festival of Music and Architecture tour costs from £1.490 to £2.250 all inclusive. Early booking is advisable for the next tour in June.

☐ Contact Martin Randall Travel, 10 Barley Mow Passage, Chiswick, London W4 4PH (0181 742 3355; fax 0181 742 1066).

CRUISE TIPS

☐ Solo's (0181 202 0855) has a 14-night holiday in Russia, starting on August 5, including a cruise aboard the MS Lenin from St Petersburg to Moscow. From £1,075 per person based on two sharing, including return flights from Heathrow, full board, all shore excursions, four days in St Petersburg, and four days in Moscow.

☐ Princess Cruises (0171 800 2345) has four 12-night cruises in September and October from New York to Montreal, calling at Newport, Boston, Bar Harbour, Saint John, Halifax and Quebec. Prices from £1,895 (after discount if booked more than 60 days in advance) including return flights from Heathrow or Gatwick, free regional flights within UK, and on-board accommodation.

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* The itinerary for our 28 August departure is in reverse order.

SWAN HELLENIC P&O

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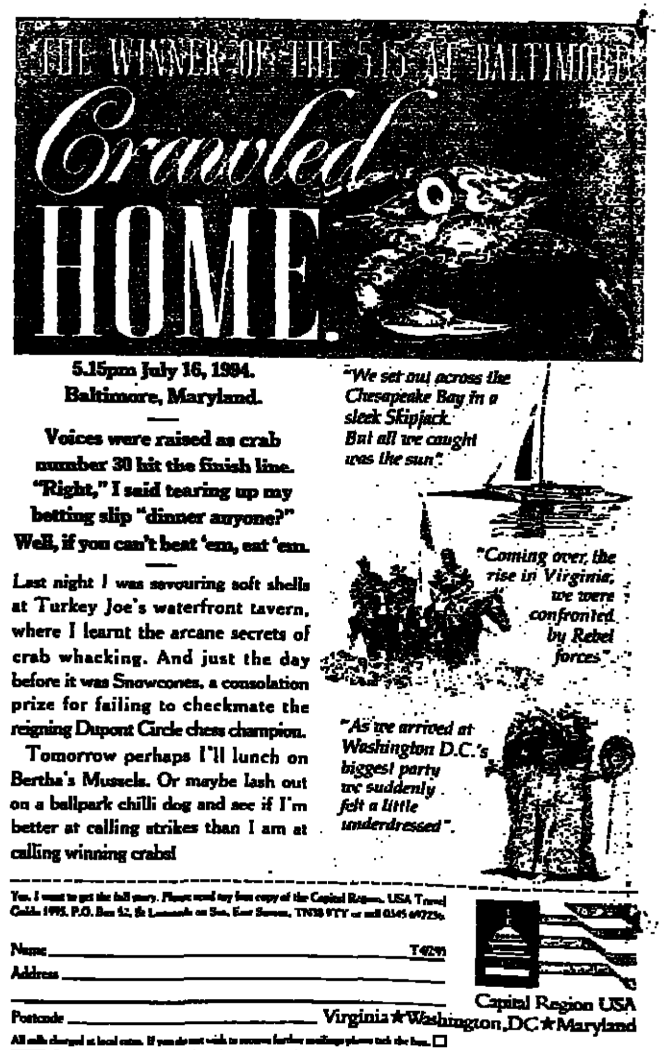
THE WINNER OF THE 5.15 AT BALTIMORE
Crawled HOME.

**5.15pm July 16, 1994.
Baltimore, Maryland.**

Voices were raised as crab number 30 hit the finish line. "Right," I said tearing up my betting slip "dinner anyone?" Well, if you can't beat 'em, eat 'em.

Last night I was savouring soft shells at Turkey Joe's waterfront tavern, where I learnt the arcane secrets of crab whacking. And just the day before it was Snowcones, a consolation prize for failing to checkmate the reigning Dupont Circle chess champion.

Tomorrow perhaps I'll lunch on Bertha's Mussels. Or maybe lash out on a ballpark chilli dog and see if I'm better at calling strikes than I am at calling winning crabs!

"We set out across the Chesapeake Bay in a sleek Skipjack. But all we caught was the sun".

"Coming over the rise in Virginia, we were confronted by Rebel forces".

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SO MANY STORIES TO TELL

[illegible]

NORTH WALES: The magical creation of an architect who traced his ancestry back to medieval princes

Village that grew out of the Celtic mists

A ketch "tied up" at the quay is anchored in concrete

Time was when London's glitterati could travel first-class directly from Paddington to Portmeirion, that Mediterranean transplant in the Celtic mists around Snowdonia. The patronage of such celebrities as Arthur Koestler, Marghanita Laski and Richard Crossman transformed the North Wales resort into a sort of Llanhampstead. Everyone who ruled anyone, from Edward VIII to King Zog of Albania, fetched up in this Italianate outpost on Cardigan Bay.

Sir Kenneth Clark often checked in on his periodic wartime visits to keep an eye on the nation's art treasures, stored for the duration under a nearby mountain of slate, and Noel Coward dashed off *Blithe Spirit* there more than 50 years ago.

Insufficient accommodation once frustrated a proposed visit by Bernard Shaw, although H. G. Wells and Bertrand Russell were more fortunate. The hotel in the resort, The Portmeirion, retains its enviable popularity. Only recently, it was unable to accommodate Richard Gere, Sean Connery and the crew of an Arthurian saga being filmed in Snowdonia.

Portmeirion is the brainchild, or more accurately, perhaps, the love child, of Sir Clough Williams-Ellis, an eccentric local architect who traced his ancestry back to the medieval princes of Gwynedd. The village, set in a cleft on the wooded coastline, owes everything to him — even its name. Portmeirion slips more easily off the Anglo-Saxon visitor's tongue than Aber Iâ (Icey Estuary) — its original name.

Icey it is not, and even frost is a rare occurrence. In November, when I visited, hydrangeas and fuchsias were blooming, oblivious to the approach of Christmas.

The village, which was built piecemeal with the profits from the architect's successful practice in London, was begun in 1925 and completed in time for his 90th birthday in 1973. "Clough", as he was known to lords and labourers alike, bought his tiny peninsula, and set about transforming it into a Cymric Portofino.

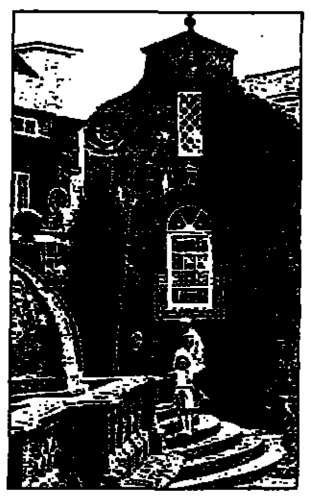
Like Citizen Kane, he acquired architectural fragments from far and wide to create what he termed his "home for fallen buildings". There is a colonnade from Bristol, a ballroom ceiling from a Flintshire mansion and a classical façade from Cheshire. In his Xanadu, architectural styles combine in unlikely harmony. Jacobean stonework sits by Mediterranean stucco, and classical columns near rustic cottages.

Nothing is ever quite what it seems. On closer inspection, the strategically placed window with its lace curtains relieving the boredom of that blank wall turns out to be a *trompe-l'oeil*. The ketch apparently tied up at the quay beyond the heated swimming pool is anchored in concrete.

Every vista might have emerged from a child's pop-up book of fairy tales. Gilded Siamese maidens dance atop pillars on the *piazza*; a portly Buddha, looking as though he might have over-indulged in the hotel's dining room, contemplates the terraced gardens and the crouching statue of Hercules. Perhaps to restore the religious equilibrium, a carved St Peter preaches from a pulpit overlooking the cobbles of Battery Square.

It could all so easily have been the proverbial dog's breakfast, but somehow what Sir Clough termed his "light-opera approach to architecture" produced a joyous gesture of defiance in the face of sterile uniformity.

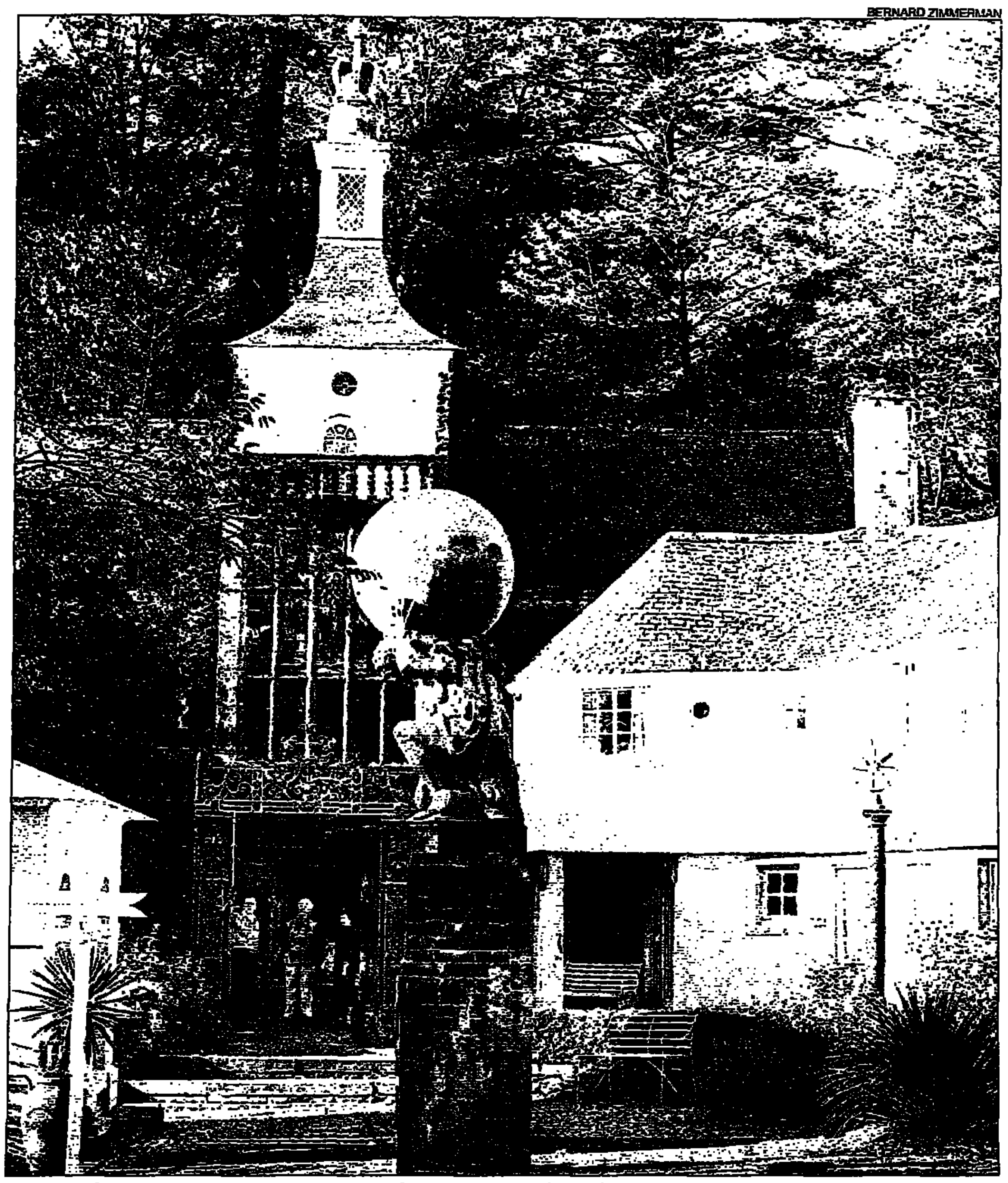
Small wonder the village was an ideal setting for *The Prisoner*, the 1960s cult television series starring Patrick McGoohan. The faithful make pilgrimages each summer to attend Prisoner conventions.


Charm — on many levels

Sir Clough's architectural legacy poses certain problems for his heirs. He was 43 when he embarked on building Portmeirion, so it was inevitable that he would have to cut the occasional corner. Robert Llywelyn, his grandson and the managing director of Portmeirion Ltd, says the old man had little time for such details as damp courses, insulation and soundproofing, and a new generation is picking up the consequent bills.

Plumbing bored the architect and he was never convinced of the need for such fripperies as private bathrooms, even for VIPs. He was prevailed upon to install one, however, for a visit by the Prince of Wales and Mrs Simpson. Mr Llywelyn says: "He contrived it so that the Prince had to jump over the bath to reach the toilet."

BERNARD ZIMMERMAN


A touch of religion for Battery Square, left, and the jumble of architectural artefacts and styles collected from around the world by Portmeirion's creator

Before he died, at 95, the old man had the wry satisfaction of seeing his folly become a Grade II listed site, which meant it could not be tampered with by anyone — including him.

It is still possible to travel to Portmeirion by rail, but from Euston now, and you have to change at Shrewsbury and Machynlleth. As a guest of BR's Central Infrastructure Services, I was invited to take a turn in the driver's cabin — a far more interesting treat than the flight deck of a jumbo jet where nothing but clouds are on offer.

As our two-carriage train burrowed through a tunnel of greenery in Powys, a buzzard was obliged to concede right of way on the single-line track. On the last leg of the journey from Machynlleth, we often appeared to be careering along a beach with the waters of Cardigan Bay lapping at our wheels. Scores of seabirds, startled by our intrusion, kept pace with us.

A melodramatic sunset transformed the western sky into a blackcurrant sorbet as we rumbled across Barmouth Bridge. The 800yd-long construction was closed in 1980 by the ravages of a species of ship worm that left its wooden piles looking like Gruyère cheese.

When it seemed that the Victorian creation might never reopen, Gwynedd County Council, no doubt recognising its contribution to local tourism, stepped in with financial help.

Thanks to the council, the Cambrian Coast line still affords a romantic approach to Portmeirion and a minibus will pick up hotel guests at the tiny halt of Minffordd.

ALAN ROAD

How to get there, where to stay

☐ Alan Road visited Portmeirion as a guest of British Rail's Central Infrastructure Services and Gwynedd County Council.

☐ *Passengers for Minffordd from Shrewsbury change to* the Cambrian Coast line at Machynlleth.

☐ Admission to Portmeirion until March 31: adult £1.50, child 65p; high season: adult £3, Child £1.50.

☐ A standard room at the Portmeirion Hotel (01766 770 228) *costs £58 a night, room only, until March 31.*
A deluxe suite costs £98, accommodation only. High season charges will be £68 and £115 respectively. The hotel has an open-air pool (heated May to September) and a hard-surface tennis court. Guests play free of green fees at the local 18-hole golf course (three miles away).

TRAVEL TIPS

☐ The National Trust for Scotland's (0131 243 9331) self-catering brochure contains 32 properties, including cottages, flats in castles and seaside houses. From £190 a week for a flat sleeping four in the 17th-century St Andrew's House, adjacent to the Palace of Falkland in Fife.

☐ Countrywide Holidays (0161 224 2855) has a four-day bridge course, for club-standard players, at the Forest Side guesthouse at Grasmere, Lake District, from March 13 to 17. The cost for full board and tuition is £129 a person.

☐ Countrywide Holidays *also has half-term family* breaks. Six days visiting Porlock, Dunster Castle, Glastonbury, Exmoor and Fowey costs £339 for a family of four (children under 15), including full-board in a guesthouse.

Take bridge lessons in the Lake District

☐ Queens Moat Houses (0645 102030) are offering discounts of up to 50 per cent on spring weekend breaks. Prices from £40 a person for two nights' bed and breakfast. Choose from 90 three-star to five-star hotels throughout Britain. Offer ends April 27.

☐ The Youth Hostels Association (01629 825850) has five-day (Monday to Friday) children's breaks at the Ravenstor Youth Hostel in Derbyshire, exploring the countryside, and craft activities, from July 31 or August 7. Cost: £175 a child (eight to 12 years), including full board and activities. *Supervised by National* Park Study Centre staff.

CHRISTINE WHEELER

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page *29*

OPSIMATH

(b) One who learns late in life, from the Greek *opse* late + *manthanein* to learn. Useful for teachers writing report cards: "Justin's results in English, History, Maths, Science, Latin, Greek, French and General Effort were admittedly a little disappointing, even for him. But at this stage he has certainly laid the *necessary groundwork* to make a future for himself as an opsimath."

VELLEITY

(a) A gentle volition, an almost passive inclination towards some act or objective. "I sense within myself a certain velleity to get up amd go to work," you *murmur* to your bedpartner as the sun steals across your futon at 9 am. T. S. Eliot: "Velleities and carefully caught regrets", sort of rhymes with, "Among the windings of the violins/ and the ariettes/ of cracked cornets."

FUGLEMAN

(b) A drill-sergeant or other soldier who stands in front of a group of drilling soldiers so that they can follow his lead. Hence, any front-man, spokesman or leader who cuts an imposing figure and compels the members of an organisation to dance to his or her tune. From the German *flügelmann, flügel* a wing + *mann* a man.

BASTINADO

(c) A punishment, of oriental origin, in which the soles of the feet are beaten. From the Spanish *bastonada*, French *bâton*, a stick or rod. The term is useful for waiters wanting to preserve their dignity in dealing with tiresome customers. When she palpates and rejects the third avocado you have offered her and in so doing makes loud aspersions on your integrity, you should smile imperturbably and say: "Would Madam perhaps prefer the Bastinado?"

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ATOL 3113

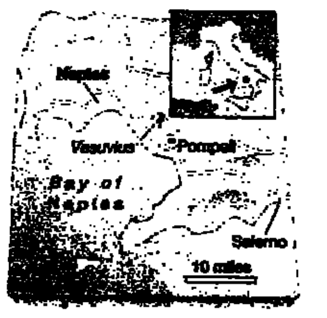
SOUTHERN ITALY: A city that believes in miracles but is only now daring to hope for its own regeneration

Neapolitan revival

Life in Naples is a balancing act between the "terrible and the beautiful, and the beautiful and terrible", said Goethe. Struggling up the side of smoking Vesuvius, a hanky pressed to his nose, he looked out over the remarkable paradise below and added that Neapolitans would be different if they weren't "wedged in between God and Satan".

Since AD79, when the voluptuously painted Pompeiian villas were smothered in bubbling lava, a battle of extremes has characterised Naples. It can be beguiling and loathsome in equal measure. It's the kind of place where a midday visit to a *trattoria* to feast on the freshest *spaghetti alle vongole* is prefaced at the door by an encounter with uncollected refuse left by dustmen on strike.

Where else would you see an archbishop guarded at the altar by armed security men as he holds aloft a precious phial of the local saint's

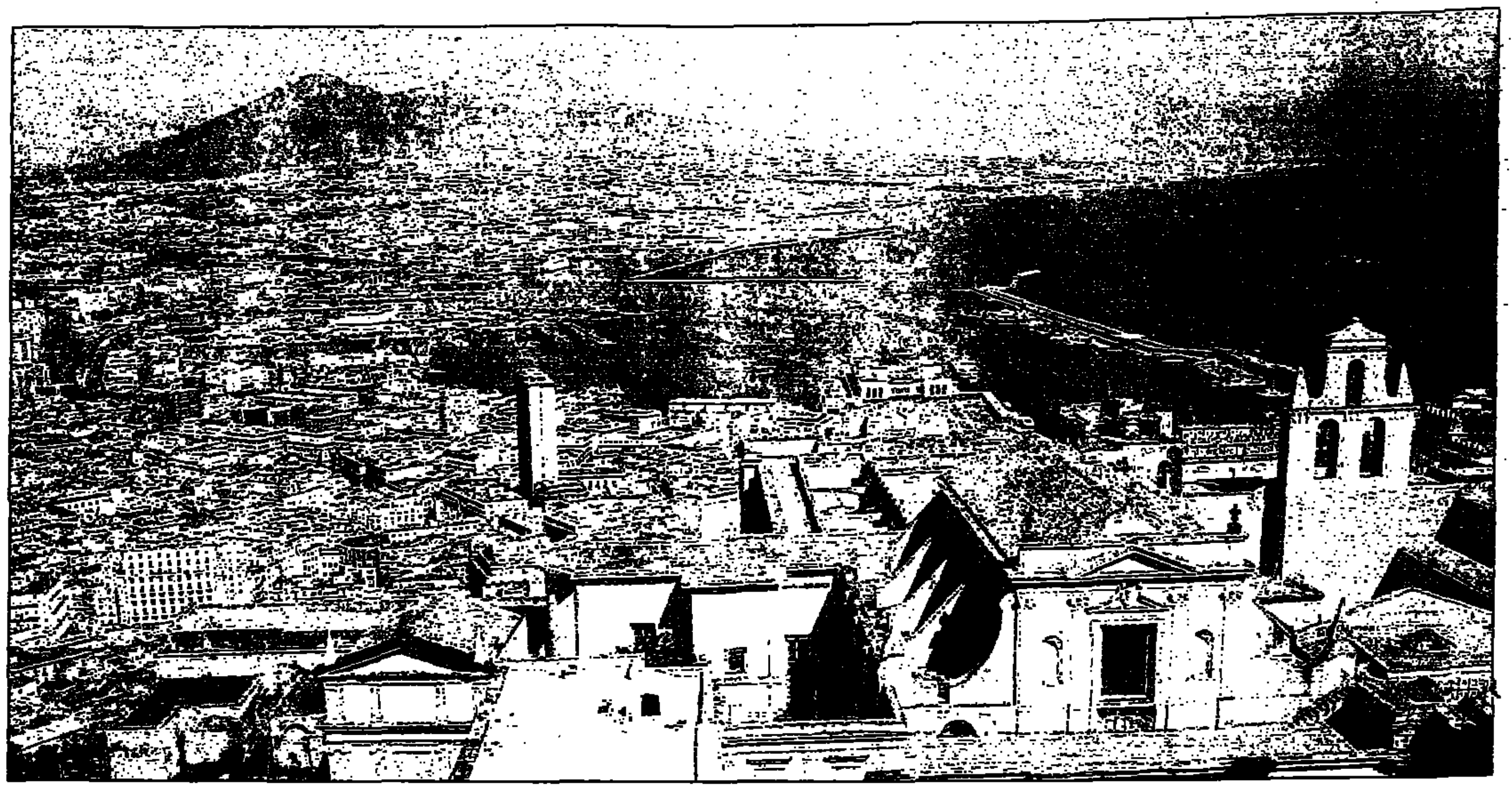


congealed blood, waiting for the annual miracle of its liquefaction? If the miracle does not come to pass, it's a disaster for Naples.

This is heaven, and it's hell. But since the war, and until recently, God's been the loser. Tourists have stayed away. The scales have been tipped in favour of the forces of corruption, resulting in decay. Ignoring the very things that put it on a par with other great Italian cities, a self-serving administration allowed Naples's treasures to deteriorate through neglect, vandalism, unscrupulous urban ventures and decay.

But things are changing. Naples is reawakening — probably the last truly great west European former royal capital to do so — and very much because of the efforts of Mirella Barracco, a baroness who presides over the *Fondazione Napoli '99*, a foundation that works to foster the restoration of Neapolitan treasures. Its name recalls the year 1799, when revolutionaries introduced a brief but not forgotten period of intellectual freedom and achievement.

Baronessa Barracco's hope is that by the end of the century much will have changed, that Naples will have shed its damaging image and that a refrain heard by those trying to enter locked Neapolitan monuments: "*Chiuso per restauro*", (Closed for restoration), will become a thing of the past. The statement really means that the building is in a bad way, not that restoration is in progress.



The great city on the Bay of Naples, with Mount Vesuvius in the background: home to a vigorous people said to be "wedged in between God and Satan"

Baronessa Barracco's hopes rest on the success of the foundation's restoration initiatives and her *Napoli Porte Aperte* (Naples Opens its Doors) project which, now in its third year, has highlighted the city's plight. Based on the French *Portes Ouvertes sur les Monuments Historiques*, it has succeeded in opening free of charge, annually for one weekend every May, dozens of places normally closed either through neglect by the authorities or because they are in private use. A decision on when the openings will happen this year has yet to be made. Schools have enthusiastically "adopted" monuments, appointing their pupils as guides. Having them research the history of, say, the Palazzo Doria d'Angri, an old palace (now a school) hiding jewel-like interiors, gives the youngsters a pride in their city's heritage.

Porte Aperte attracts more than a million visitors to about 160 monuments normally closed. About 20 per cent are foreigners, indicating a thirst by locals for knowledge of their city. Book now if you want to be there in May — although a weekend visit at any time of the year, particularly if it coincides with opera or ballet at the magnificent Teatro San Carlo, is well worth the effort.

A certain barometer of change in any city is its plan for dealing with the traffic. In Naples, it has been a chronic malady desperate for a cure. Now the cars have been kicked out of the newly restored Piazza del Plebiscito, an elegant square by a horrifying intersection which pedestrians would cross at their peril.

There's more: after half a century, San Giovanni a Carbonara, damaged in the war and since closed, has reopened restored, its ancient tombs glorious memorials to the rogues who once ruled Naples. And the Capodimonte picture gallery in which one of the world's great art collections once was marooned in decay, is being overhauled. Meanwhile, selected highlights from Masaccio to Andy Warhol, via Titian and Caravaggio, can be examined in their temporary home at the lovely neo-Classical Villa Pignatelli.

Lottery agents in action

The momentum gathers force. The *Napoli Sacra* itinerary ensures that the key churches are opened every Saturday morning. It's the time to visit Gothic Santa Maria Donnaregina, San Giovanni a Carbonara, and baroque San Giorgio Armeno. Major places — San Lorenzo, Santa Chiara and the Duomo — stick to Italy's traditional opening hours (daily, morning and late afternoon) and all the monuments, museums and excavations along the ancient Decumano Maggiore are open daily (10.30am to 4pm) except Sunday — including the chapel of the Pio Monte della Misericordia with its Caravaggio altarpiece, and the Cappella Sansevero (open until 5pm) whose astonishingly realistic sculpture pleasantly blurs the sacred and profane.

This is the place to sense the city's erotic undercurrents: Modesty, naked but for a flimsy gauze, bubbles away on her pedestal, anything but modest. And after a look over the collections of the cleaned-up Museo Nazionale Archeologicao, it's easy to imagine that early Neapolitans simply went about naked. Everywhere deities are exposing themselves — in marble, on frescoes, pots and jewels — no doubt in the same tradition that later caused Boswell on his Naples visit to run after "girls without restraint", his "passions violent".

There are places that can be seen simply by wandering in off the street. Try Sanfelice's Palazzo Serra di Cassano (4 Via Monte di Dio): its double baroque stair is sculpture masquerading as architecture. His, too, is the monumental stair of the Palazzo Sanfelice (5 Via Arena della Sanità), lurking at the back of a Fiat-filled courtyard heaving with emaciated cats. Walk in, have a look. This is the Sanita district, where you'll find that Naples really is a crossroads of Africa and Europe, a rendezvous of chaos and anarchy. Watch your bag, hide your Rolex but, please, forget that other cliché, "*Vedi Napoli e scappa*" (See Naples and run).

PAUL DUNCAN

Fact File

☐ Paul Duncan was a guest of the Italian Tourist Board (0171 4081254). Flights on Alitalia (0171 602 7111) cost from £255, including airport tax, from Heathrow via Rome. For details of local itineraries, opening times and exhibitions, visit Centro Antico, the tourist information bureau in Piazza del Gesù (0039 81 55 23 328). See also the Italian State Tourist Office at 1 Princes Street, London W1 (0171 408 1254). *Qui Napoli*, the local listings guide, is available free from the tourist office and most big hotels. The four-star Hotel Vesuvio, comfortable and old-fashioned, has good views over the Bay from its rooftop restaurant. Via Partenope 45 (0039 81 76 40 044). A double room costs from L300,000 (about £110) a night. The two-star Pinto-Storey, comfortable, family-run and informal, is at Via G. Martucci 72 (0039 81 68 12 60); double room from L150,000 (£56) a night. Eat outdoors at Bellini, Via Constantinopoli 79 (0039 81 45 97 74), or Dante e Beatrice, Piazza Dante 44 (0039 81 54 99 438).

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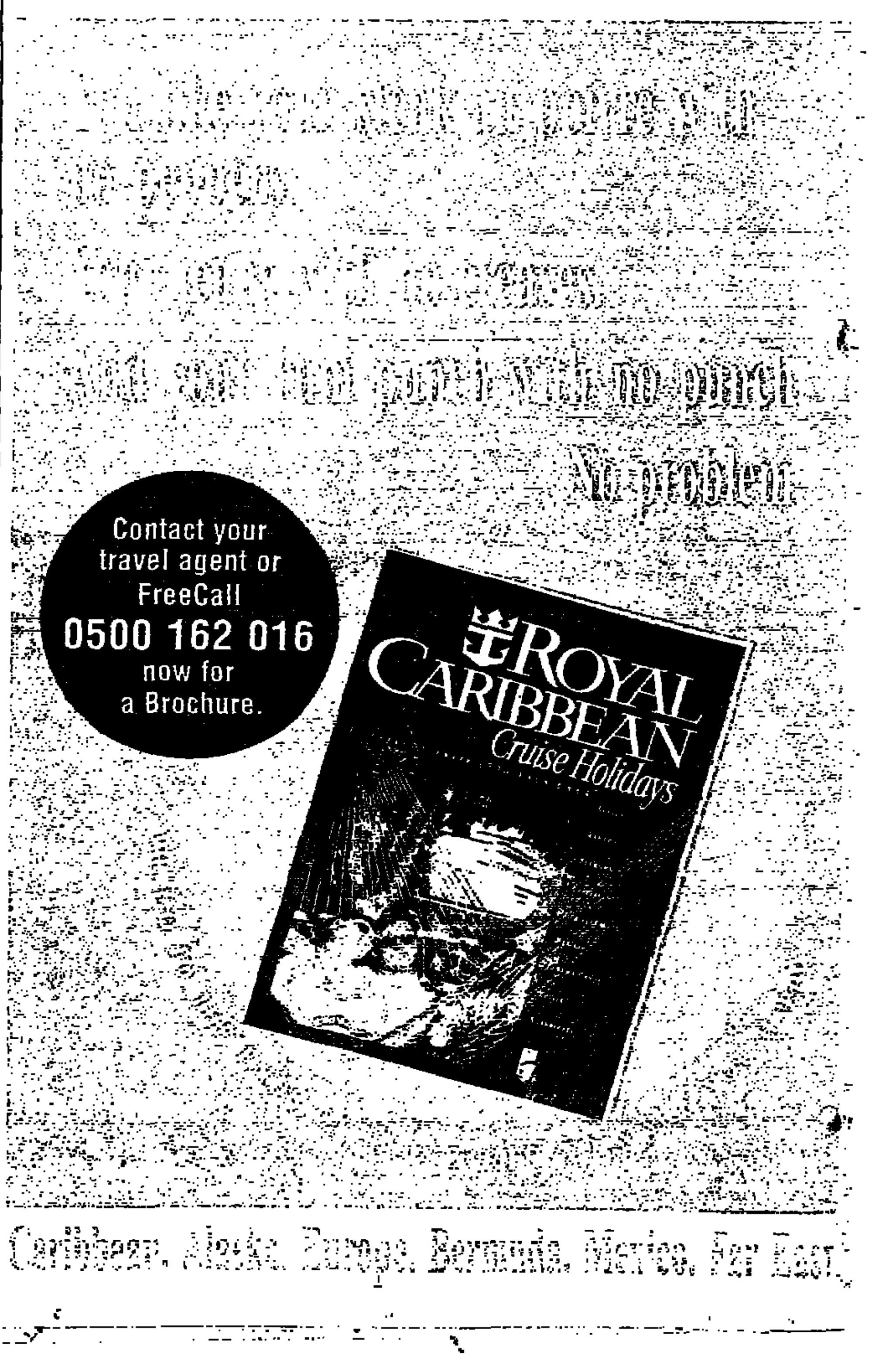

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At any time, the unpisted 2,100 vertical metres off the shoulder of the soaring peak of La Meije, down to the experts-only resort of La Grâve in the French Dauphine, is a challenge. With weary legs in the dying light of a late March afternoon, the task ahead seemed Herculean. The continous process of thaw and refreeze had transformed what was otherwise a perfect powderfield into patches of ridges and rutted ice, interspersed with a dangerous breakable crust.

Our guide was an unsympathetic mountaineer who took no prisoners and allowed no time for rest. The group was made up of my partner and myself, plus friends — a man and a woman. We had begun the day as equals in fitness *and experience.*

Almost immediately the men surged ahead, using brute force to power through a field of translucent ice debris which had tumbled down from the Glacier du Rateau. But the women were not as fortunate. With waning energy *we were forced to jump-turn* through the boulders and thick crust to make up for our lack of strength. As we tired we began to fall — and fall. That was the day I realised that some skiers are more equal than others.

It is a problem with which *women of all standards have* to contend. Men are heavier, stronger, and more aggressive. They hop into icy *couloirs* and other equally terrifying terrain while we think: "What will happen to the children/husband/boyfriend if I fall down a crevasse?"

When the wind chill factor drops to minus 20C and you can't see your gloves — let alone your group, the men hardly seem to notice. All you can think of is the proximity of the nearest mountain restaurant and a steaming mug of hot chocolate. Yet you dare not concede and be shown up as a *wimp. The search for a sol*ution to this problem took me last season to Beaver Creek, Colorado, for a Technique Week For Women.

Strangely, no one could tell me in advance what I could hope to learn. Friends teased me mercilessly with suggestions of an alpine Tupperware party in which wholesome housewives traded recipes for apple pie and beauty tips. Others muttered predictably of Sapphic liaisons which *neatly* replaced the desire to ski with men anyway.

The Americans, with their penchant for therapy, have been running women-only ski workshops for over a decade, and the trend has now caught on in Europe.

The US even has a specialist magazine *Skiing For Women* which warns readers that *these courses may not be for* everyone: "Women who feel they need to be pushed to make progress in skiing may have little patience with the non-threatening, supportive teaching approach that women's clinics generally take."

Over the get-to-know-each-*other breakfast at the Hyatt* Regency — having missed the 7am stretch class — any fears were allayed. My neighbour, over muffins and weak American coffee, was a 47-year-old grandmother living in Honolulu. She and her husband had opted for separate classes.

*Laura, a 37-year-old ortho*paedic surgeon from Texas, confessed she was fanatical about improving her skiing and "joins every course going". Marisa, a 40-year-old from Miami, was on holiday with her husband and children, but preferred skiing with other women. Claudia, 51, was a writer and mother from Denver who skis most winter weekends. Finally there was Amy, a 25-year-old from nearby Avon, who looked and dressed like a ski fashion model.

The six of us made up the top level of the course together with our teacher, Carol Lev*ine. She asked what we want*ed to concentrate on during the course and the consensus was: "To improve our bump skiing and use less energy."

On the snow, she told us, we should be "aggressive, but silky", and our skis should "slice, like slicing a tomato, not chop". Her advice worked reasonably well for me, but more successful was: "Choose an alley rather than a line to ski through the moguls and imagine you are stretching your legs out as you turn round a bump. Don't rise up as you turn." We skied the moguls with less effort and more style after that.

Essentially, this bland but enjoyable course offered the chance to take a group lesson in a relaxed and uncompetitive atmosphere. I came away with a little more technique and a lot more confidence.

Most American resorts offer *women-only courses. The* Olympic medallist Holly Flanders runs Ladies Ski Adventures at Park City in Utah, while Kim Reichhelm, the 1991 World Extreme Skiing Champion, hosts Women's Ski Adventures at Crested Butte in *Colorado.*

A trickle of forward-thinking ski schools in the Alps are now following suite. The most developed is Ski Principles' Workshops for Women in Meribel. Sue Saunders, the director, says: "The structural and emotional differences of women are rarely taken into account when learning to ski . . . The workshop allows you to exchange experiences with like-minded women."

Women's courses are also run by: Sally Chapman, of the Ski Company, in Tignes and Courchevel; Jane McGarry, of McGarry The Ski System, in Châtel and Chamonix; and by Sue Dickson, of Ski Masterclass, in Courchevel.

But if you want to go the whole hog — or rather sow — join the WomenSki Wholistic Mountain Retreat Week in April in Grand Targhee, Wyoming. It promises "Bodywork, *yoga, herbal healing, reflexol*ogy, life-reading, meditation, crystal work . . . and skiing".

FELICE EYSTON

Fact file

☐ The author was a guest of Orient Express Hotels and Ski the American Dream (0181 552 1201). A week's package staying at The Lodge at Vail costs from £1,049. A week at the Roost Lodge costs from £695. Both prices are per person, in a double room, including breakfast and return flights from Heathrow.

☐ The Techniques Week for Women course at Beaver Creek (20-minutes by ski-bus from Vail) costs from $1,495 (£960) including six nights accommodation with breakfast, and four days of lessons. Course only (four days) costs $875 (£560). Vail Associates (001 303 845 9200).

☐ Ski Principles' Workshops for Women (01803 852185) in Meribel cost £145 for three half-days plus one full day. The Ski Company's (01279 653746) one-week ski technique improvement package costs £400 including accommodation and liftpass but excluding flights. McGarry The Ski System (0181-399 5823) women's courses cost about £400 for a week including chalet accommodation, five days' tuition and transfer (no flights). Ski Masterclass (01479 810814) courses cost Fr700 (£83) for five two-hour sessions.

SKI NEWS

AFTER a poor start to the season at Christmas, skiing bookings are pouring in as the poor weather that has hit European lowlands inundates the Alps with snow. "We're getting up to 60 phone calls an hour," says Neal Manuel of FlexiSki, a firm that specialises in last minute weekend breaks to Verbier and Courchevel.

With half term looming, and the February high season starting, snow conditions are excellent everywhere in the Alps, and unbelievable in America. Mammoth Mountain in California has had a phenomenal 876cm of snow so far this winter. In Europe most snow has fallen in the Austrian resorts of St Anton and Lech, in central Switzerland and in the Trois Vallées region of France.

Off-piste skiing is highly dangerous, with serious avalanche risks keeping the higher sectors of Chamonix and Verbier, for example, closed. But Andorra, Norway and even eastern Europe have most pistes and lifts open. Skiing on piste in low-altitude resorts such as Wengen and Söll is good right to village level.

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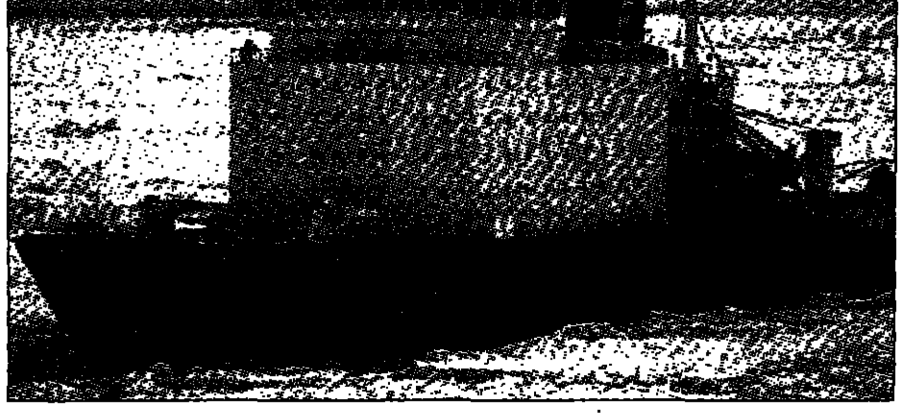

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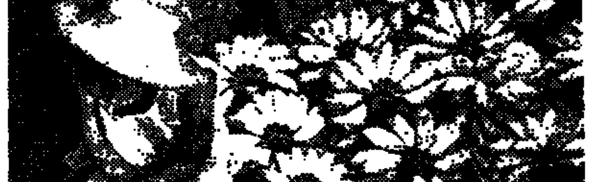

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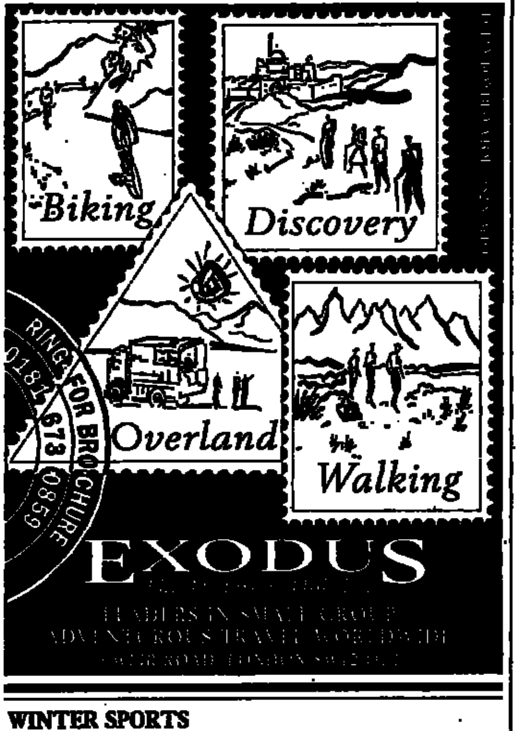

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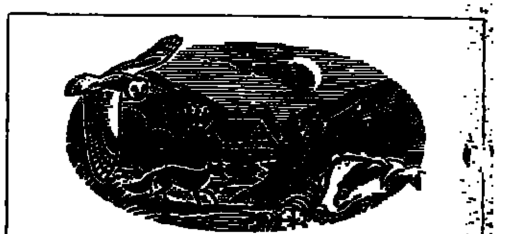

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مكتبة ١:٢٥٠

CHESS

by Raymond Keene

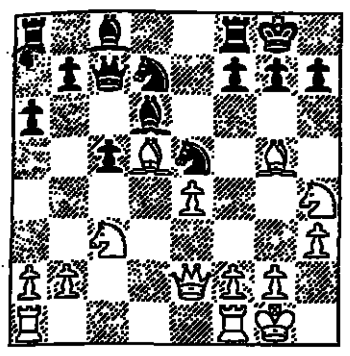
The games of some players are quite extraordinarily capable of arousing the fiercest passions among enthusiasts. A prime example is that of Alexander Alekhine, the fiery Russian who was world champion 1927-35 and 1937-46. On 30 November, I gave a key variation as a Winning Move puzzle from a game Alekhine won in 1929. Here, first of all, is the full score of the game, so that we can admire Alekhine's attacking genius.

White: Alekhine; Black: Steiner
Bradley Beach, 1929
Queen's Gambit Accepted

1	d4	d5	2	c4	dxc4
3	Nf3	Nf6	4	e3	e6
5	Bxc4	c5	6	0-0	a6
7	Qe2	Nbd7	8	Nc3	Qc7

An unfortunate square for the queen.

9	d5	exd5	10	Bxd5	Bd6
11	e4	0-0	12	Bg5	Ng4
13	h3	Nge5	14	Nh4	



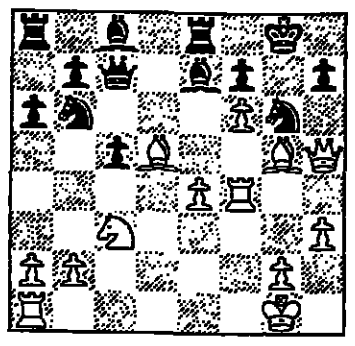
White avoids exchanges and masses his pieces around the black king.

14 ... Nb6 15 f4 Nc6 16 f5. This pawn now acts as a battering ram. 16 ... Ne5 17 Qh5 Re8 18 Rf4 Be7 19 f6. The assassination of the black monarch is now complete, and all White's forces converge for the kill.

19	...	Bf8	20	fxg7	Bxg7
21	Raf1	Be6	22	Nf5	Bxd5
23	Nxg7	Ng6	24	Nxe8	Rxe8
25	Nxd5				

Black resigns.

The critical question, though, is what would have happened if Black had played 19 ... g6 instead of 19 ... Bf8. Alekhine claims he would have continued after 19 ... g6 with 20 Nxg6 Nxg6, reaching this position:



Here Alekhine's intended solution was as follows: 21 Bxf7+ Kxf7 22 Qxh7+ Ke6 23 Qxg6 and wins. I have never previously been so deluged with readers' letters concerning one position as with this extract. I cannot possibly list all the readers who wrote in to point out that in the diagram position the great man had missed a more incisive victory, namely with 21 Rh4! The point is that after 21 ... Nxh4, White wins immediately with 22 Qxf7+.

As a representative of all those readers who did write in with the *improvement, I quote just one,* Bruce Hayden, who, amazingly, witnessed that very game in 1929. He writes: "I well remember the flushed new world champion Alekhine, playing the young and handsome Herman Steiner in those far-off days. I thought at the time that Rh4 was a direct win with a nifty queen sacrifice in one variation. Ah well, the sun was shining, the Californian wine industry was garnering acres of ripening grapes which caused many of us to be flushed too!"

Here, for the record, is Mr Hayden's nifty queen sacrifice. From the diagram: 21 Rh4 Bxf6 22 Qxh7+ Kf8 23 Bxf6 Re6 24 Qh8+ Nxh8 25 Rxh8 checkmate. Thanks to Mr Hayden for this memory of a distant day.

WINNING MOVE

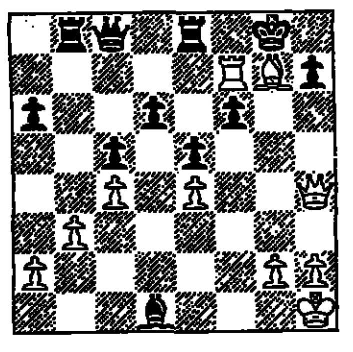
By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Tal - Rantanen, Tallinn 1979. Mikhail Tal was one of the greatest attacking geniuses and the chess world was much saddened by his death in 1992. This finish is typical. How did Tal, White to play, deliver the killing blow?

Send your answers on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine publication. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: Qxf7+

Last week's winners: J Howlett, Leighton Buzzard, Beds; W S Nockles, Croydon, Surrey; M McCall, Walthamstow, London.



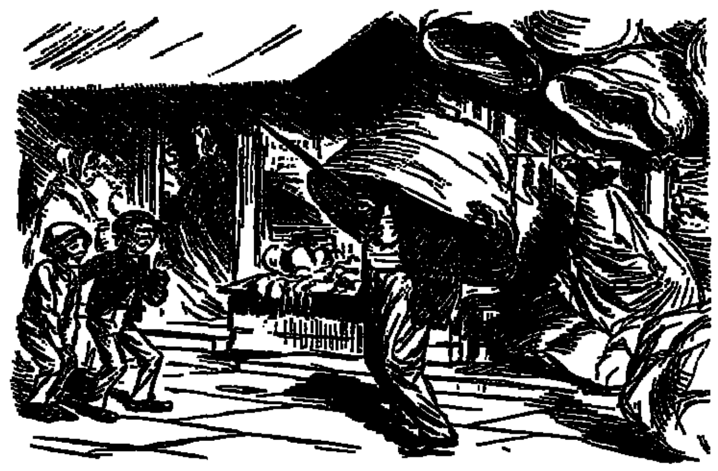
PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon on the right. The cartoon, from the Punch library, includes the contemporary caption.

The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Caption suggestions, on a postcard please, should be addressed to: Cartoon caption 43, Weekend Games Page, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The editor's decision is final.

The closing date for entries is Wednesday, February 8.



EMBARRASSING ACCIDENT
THAT HAPPENED TO BROWN DURING THE HIGH WIND THE OTHER DAY.

"You don't think that this new senior managment dress code at British Gas is rather rubbing it in a bit?"

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by Tony Fitzpatrick, of Coventry

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

OPSIMATH
a. Computer maths
b. A late learner
c. A venomous tree snake

VELLEITY
a. A mild wish
b. A lady's dog-cart
c. Hoi polloi

FUGLEMAN
a. A tootler on the Alpenhorn
b. A drill-sergeant
c. A runaway

BASTINADO
a. A South American pear
b. A pirate's island
c. Beating the feet

Answers on page 25

COMPUTER GAMES

MICROPROSE is a serious publishing name to play with in gaming circles. These are the people who have already brought us Sid Meier's greatest hits — "Railroad Tycoon", "Civilisation" and "Colonisation" — and flight sims in worlds of their own, to name but a few. In much the same way as "Sim City" spawned floods of Sims of every kind, so Microprose has a new buzz word in the making: Tycoon. Within the space of a few months it has released two new excellent titles, "Transport Tycoon" and "Pizza Tycoon".

"Transport Tycoon" launches you in 1930 at the beginning of a 100-year run heading a transport operation of your making. Starting with a purse of £100,000, you must make your millions driving, railing, sailing and flying raw materials, finished goods and passengers around the isometric world.

But you don't have to be all things to all people. You are free to specialise in any area you like and to negotiate the pitfalls. Running airlines alone, for example, poses the nightmare of what to do when your airports cannot cope with the volume of planes waiting to land.

As business games go, this is a number-cruncher's dream, with tens of balance sheets, reports and graphs to analyse and act upon. The game engine is small but sophisticated, and the clean lines of the layout are faultless. Countless screens within the game can be opened simultaneously and moved around to your heart's content to update you constantly of your successes and follies.

"Transport Tycoon" borrows gaming styles from everywhere and is a pleasure to the eye. The ears and mind, however, quickly tire of the synthetic music tracks, but thankfully they can be turned off.

The sister title to "Transport Tycoon" is "Pizza Tycoon", a more humorous caper altogether, which homes in on the lucrative worlds of catering for penny-wise entrepreneurs. This is a dog-eat-dog world where, after establishing your first restaurant in a European capital, you'll need sense and cunning to find the recipe for business success.

Instead of transporting stock, you're now shipping out piping-hot pizzas to hungry punters. The faster you can turn around your tables the more you'll make. Then come Mafia problems, and the need to play dirty to beat the competition down the road. Tangy fun, well presented and beautifully dished up.

This is the last call for Cyberspace Twelve, which closes at midnight on Tuesday February 7. Six readers will win six titles boasting a dozen games from Empire Interactive.

To enter, review any new game in your collection, good or bad. Entries must be highly legible and written to between 150 and 350 words. Please give the full title of your selection, the format on which you have played and the publisher, together with your name, address and telephone number. Clearly mark your entry: Cyberspace Twelve, Computer Games, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The judges will not enter into additional correspondence.

TIM WAPSHOTT

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

THE two biggest Pairs events of the year, the Cap Volmac World Top Tournament and the Macallan International Bridge Pairs Championship, in association with *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, were played at the end of January. The Macallan was won by Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell; the Cap Volmac by Zia Mahmood and Michael Rosenberg. Here is a critical hand from the Cap Volmac tournament:

North dealer Love-all IMP's

♠KJ10
♥A1065
♦AK952
♣A

N
W E
S

♠A652
♥QJ974
♦63
♣Q8

Contract: 6♥ by South. Lead: ♣5

South	North
Rosenberg	Mahmood
-	1♦
1♥	4♣[1]
4♠[2]	4NT[3]
5♦[4]	6♥
Pass	

(1) A "splinter" bid, showing heart support and a club singleton. The normal agreement among tournament players is to play an "unnecessary" jump as a splinter. These bids are useful for tracking down good fits in slam auctions. "Splinters" make use of bids not required for any other purpose — the hall-mark of an efficient bidding agreement.

(2) Cue bid. Although he doesn't have much in the way of high cards, an important feature of his hand is that his hearts are quite strong. By bidding beyond Four Hearts he shows he is interested in a slam.

(3) Roman Key Card Blackwood (RKC). In this form of ace-asking, there are considered to be five key cards — the four aces and the king of trumps.

(4) The responses to RKC are: Five Clubs — none or three key cards; Five Diamonds — one or four; Five Hearts — two without the queen of trumps; Five Spades — two with the queen of trumps.

How would you set about the play on a club lead? One possible line is to come to hand with the ace of spades and finesse hearts.

If that succeeds you will be home, barring any freak distribution in the red suits. If the heart finesse fails you will still be all right if the hearts are 2-2 and diamonds 3-3, and failing that, if the queen of spades is under the king. All in all, an 80 per cent plus chance.

Rosenberg decided that an even better line was to start with the ace, king and another diamond. The main advantage of playing this way is that if you can get a diamond ruff in hand you can then take the heart finesse without having committed yourself in the spade suit. You still have an option as to who to play for the queen of spades. (When not playing bridge, Rosenberg is an options trader.) In practice, East followed to the third diamond, Rosenberg ruffed with the jack of hearts, and West discarded a club. West's failure to overruff seemed to mark East with the king of hearts, so Rosenberg continued with a heart to the ace (all following low) and ruffed a further diamond high. Now he ruffed a club in dummy and exited with a heart. As the hearts were 2-2, when East won he had to give a ruff and discard or open up the spade suit, so the slam made.

This was the full deal:

	♠KJ10 ♥A1065 ♦AK952 ♣A	
♠9873 ♥32 ♦J4 ♣KJ962	N W E S	♠Q4 ♥K8 ♦Q1087 ♣107543
	♠A652 ♥QJ974 ♦63 ♣Q8	

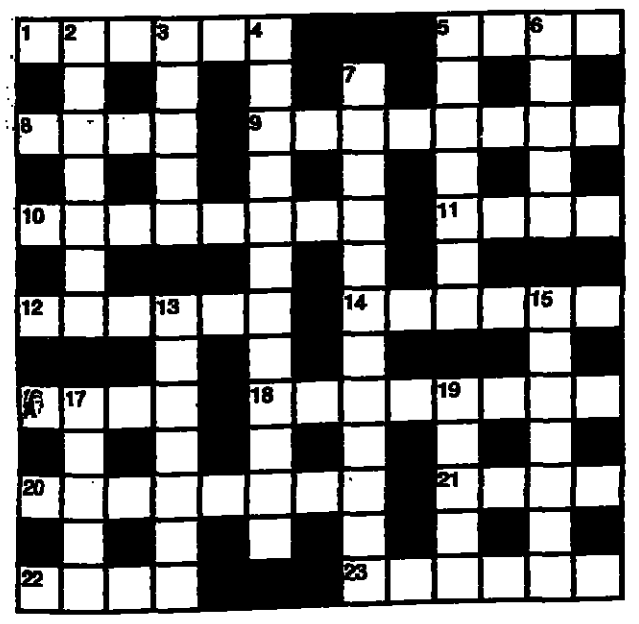
At all the other tables, the declarers decided to come to hand with the ace of spades at trick two in order to lead the queen of hearts. East won and returned a heart. Now after the diamonds broke 4-2, it was necessary to take a spade finesse into East, and so the slam went one down. Making the slam was worth three places to Rosenberg and Zia in the overall rankings. I will report on the Macallan next week.

● What are readers' views on colouring the diamonds blue and clubs green? Casinos in America are introducing packs of cards in these shades. They are particularly useful in poker games in which cards common to all the players are put face up in the middle of the table. I think it would be a help in bridge — even experienced players occasionally find a small heart nestling among the diamonds.

Those of you who ever go down to the betting shop to place a Yankee no doubt know that there are six ways of choosing two things from four things. In bridge played with standard cards the six pairs are named "red", "black", "major" and "minor", and the less well-known "pointed" (♠ and ♦) and "rounded" (♥ and ♣). If the new suits come in, what will we call the various pairs? "Major" and "minor" still work, as do "pointed", and "rounded" but we will have to throw out "red" and "black".

A bottle of I G Index champagne for the sender of the best suggestion for naming the new pairings (♥ and ♦, and ♠ and ♣) Entries, by February 18, to Bridge: Suit Pairings, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 387

ACROSS
1 Mark of disgrace (6)
5 Spilled and clotted blood (4)
8 Line of people; smoothing tool (4)
9 Gunfire in end-to-end sweep (8)
10 Playful, frivolous (8)
11 Debatable (point); old shire assembly (4)
12 Bother, annoy (6)
14 Study of moral principles (6)
16 Smoke-duct (4)
18 One leaving a valid will (8)
20 Pining from unrequited affection (8)
21 Formal and prudish (4)
22 Light-focusing device (4)
23 Come out (from) (6)

DOWN
2 Sparkle; shine like a star (7)
3 Say hello to: (Scot.) weep (5)
4 Improvement (12)
5 Move heavily and awkwardly (7)
6 Wild West show (5)
7 Crucially relevant (2,3,7)
13 Greek hero, slew Minotaur (7)
15 Preparing (food); falsifying (books) (7)
17 Unattached (5)
19 More than enough (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 386

ACROSS: 1 Commando 5 Mood 9 Take sanctuary 10 Drag 11 Dowager 13 Affair 15 Elisha 18 Magenta 20 Cosh 23 Keep to oneself 24 Ruff 25 Mainstay

DOWN: 1 Cite 2 Maker 3 Assegai 4 Denude 6 Oranges 7 Day-dream 8 Stow 12 Haymaker 14 Fig-leaf 16 Lectern 17 Pagoda 19 Note 21 Sweet 22 Iffy

EXCLUSIVE FROM TIMES BOOKS: The Times Guides: English Style and Usage (HB) £8.99. International Finance, Japan, Nations of the World, Middle East, Good University Guide 1994-5, Single European Market £9.99 each. Peoples of Europe (HB) £16.99. European Parliament - June 1994 (HB) £26. NEW The Times Guide to the New British State £17.99. The Times Maps: The World (Wall Map laminated) 62"x40" £15.99, (folded) 48"x30" £5.99. Miscellaneous: The Times Night Sky 1995 £4.50, The Times 1000 1995 (HB) £33, The Times Concise Atlas of the Bible (HB) £13.99 (reduced from £15.99). The Sunday Times Book of Answers £4.50. Book of Brainteasers £5.49. Prices include P&P (UK). Send cheques with order payable to Akom Ltd 51 Manor Lane, London, SE13 5QW. Return del. Tel. 0181 852 4575 (24hrs) No credit cards.

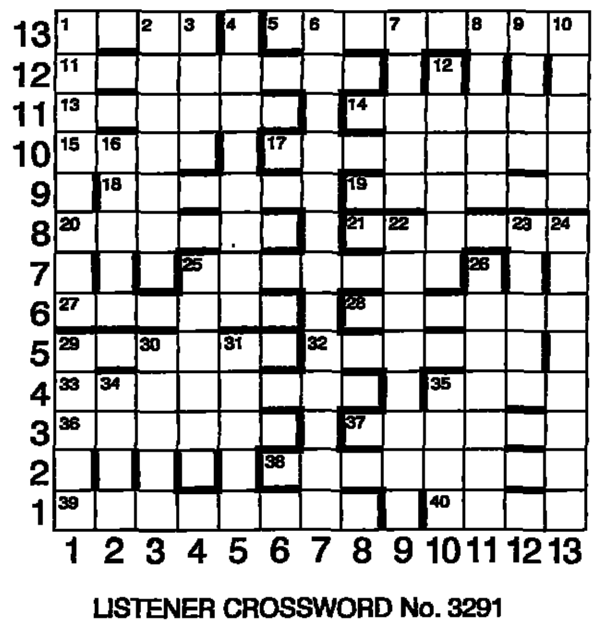
THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No. 3291: Coordination by Duck

In some of the squares the letters from Across and Down answers would naturally clash, but they can be "co-ordinated" by moving the Across letter on a number of places in the alphabet according to its horizontal grid reference and likewise the Down letter according to its vertical grid reference (count on beyond Z if necessary with A = 27, B = 28, etc). Taken in order, the co-ordinated letters (left to right, row by row from the top) spell out a sentence due to 6 Down (two words). There is some significance in the initial letters of those clues (excluding 6 Down) that yield solutions not involved in clashes. Chambers (1993) is recommended.

ACROSS
1. Discern onset of rain with blue all round (4)
5. I'm religious going around the temple? Not I! (8)
11. Brings calm to old fortified towns with army coming back in (7)
13. A programming language contains information in programme (6)
14. Decay accounts for home losing bit at the back? (6) ...
15. ... Decaying portion is adjacent to yard (4)
17. Italian glazer's process uses membranes on a furrow, rotating (8)
18. Savage without energy after short time became less spirited (6)
19. Bran? In S. W. England I traditionally harvest and store only half (6)
20. Cylinder made of wood - one brought in is barrel for Jock's party (6)
21. A bird on record is interrupted by tailless member of crow family (6)
25. One to keep going after pressure from stick (7)
27. David? One encouraged by Saul maybe (6)
28. A deed to perform when fabulous bird comes round (6)
29. Italian, in musical item, for "as usual" (6)
32. Unfixed article, old spangle concealed in uniform (6)
33. Mop water that's been spilt — it could upset the gut (8)
35. Run into Jock's room with a gun (4)
36. Give rabbit kiss after the flowing of tears (6)
37. Shortly improved? That's fine (6)
38. Drink knocked back by Scot would be fit for a king (8)
39. Eccentric saint entertained by Dominican demonstrates heretical beliefs (8)
40. Here's old tribesman's sort of axe (4)

DOWN
1. Let garden tools clutch ends of cacti around spikes 8)
2. A terrain that's rough from which river flows in province (7)
3. Ram meeting something with three prongs becomes stunted (4)
4. After capsizing at sea, 61 may be living on the rocks (8)
6. See preamble
7. Tree down under healthy having got black? The reverse (5)
8. Mixed drink for African ruler (5)
9. English farming community chief (4)
10. Eastern weight used around Asia originally? Of course! (5)
12. Going up to cover top of tower, once again fix tile (6)
16. This bird has to suffer - expression of pain given initially (5)
22. Old person skilled in government names law to be changed (8)
23. Marble on the way (5)
24. Here amidst what's torn is hair left behind (8)
25. Tool may be something still carried by Police Sergeant (6)
26. Old shiner, small, could have been nastier (7)
29. Dull — and had sitting breeches on, they say (5)
30. A little one? Yes and no! (5)
31. Eschewing drink, drinking little, be chirpy? (5)
34. With bow explorer hides head (4)
35. Dish we hear with bubble in liquid (4)



LISTENER CROSSWORD No. 3291

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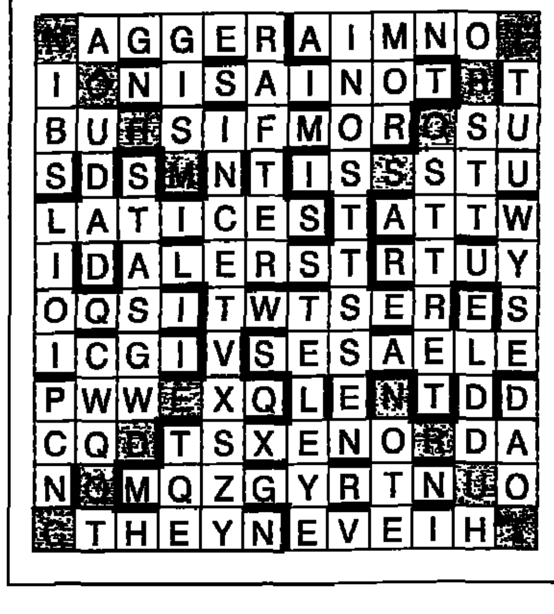
ADDRESS: Readers should cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above, to The *Listener* Crossword 3291, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL3 6HE. Entries must be received by Thursday, February 16.



N	A	G	G	E	R	A	I	M	N	O	[illegible]
I	O	N	I	S	A	I	N	O	T	R	T
B	U	H	S	I	F	M	O	R	Q	S	U
S	D	S	M	N	T	I	S	S	S	T	U
L	A	T	I	C	E	S	T	A	T	T	W
I	D	A	L	E	R	S	T	R	T	U	Y
O	Q	S	I	T	W	T	S	E	R	E	S
I	C	G	I	V	S	E	S	A	E	L	E
P	W	W	E	X	Q	L	E	N	T	D	D
C	Q	D	T	S	X	E	N	O	R	D	A
N	O	M	Q	Z	G	Y	R	T	N	U	O
[illegible]	T	H	E	Y	N	E	V	E	I	H	[illegible]

Solution and notes to No. 3288: Part-exchange (with 25% standard deposit)

For the SW 'Code', take each letter of a word as it appears, and add 1, then 2, successively. Thus, e.g., at 34ac breath become C(B+1)T(R+2)H(E+3)E(A+4)Y(T+5)N(H+6).

For the NE 'Sort' the letters of the words appear in alphabetical order.

The **winner** was John Minter, of Golf Links Lane, Wellington, Telford, Shropshire. The runners-up were Mrs J Wood, of Manor Walk, Nether Heyford, Northampton and Gwenda Meredith, 5 Crawley Road, Wood Green, North London

NOTE: A number of readers have inquired about last week's puzzle, No 3290, BR's Home Base by Wolfram. The puzzle was correct as published.

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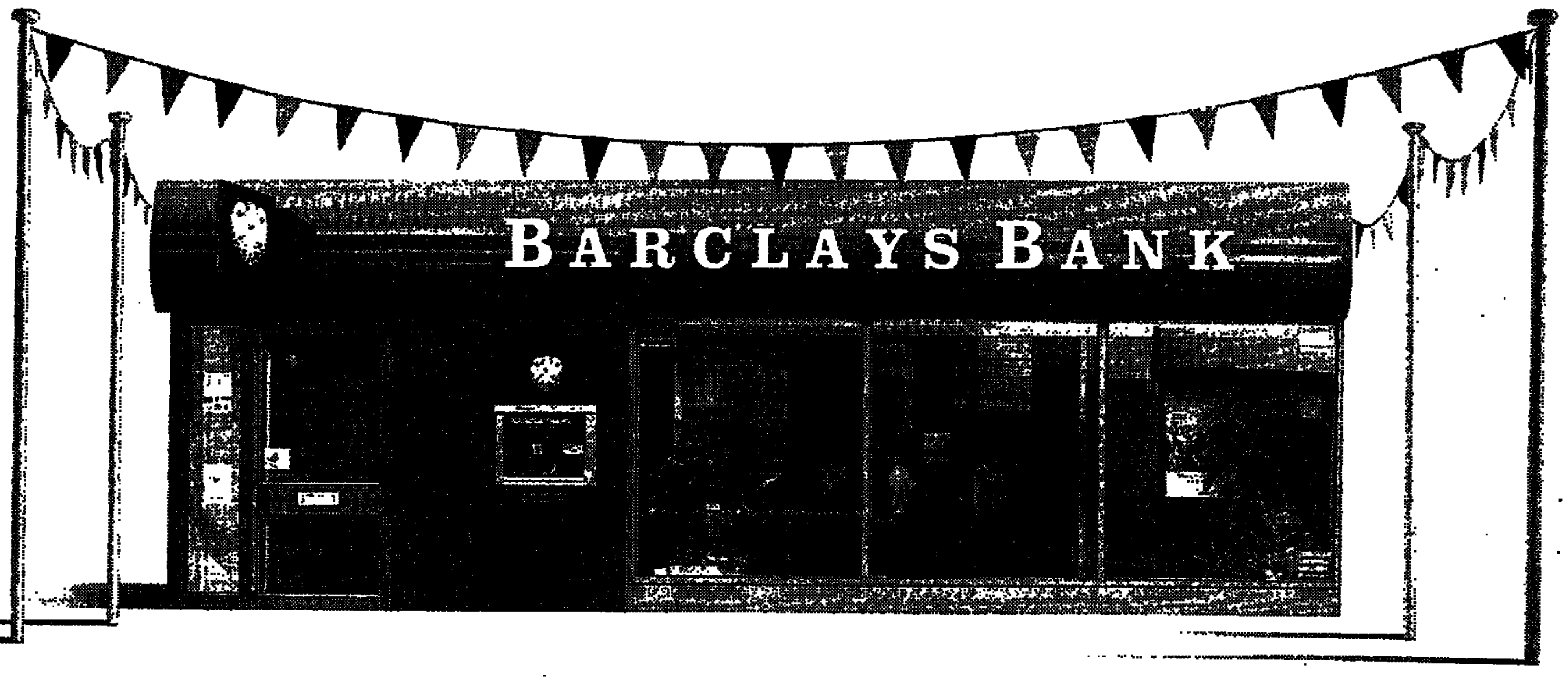

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هكذا في الأصل

Spotlight falls on the ladies who race
Page 12

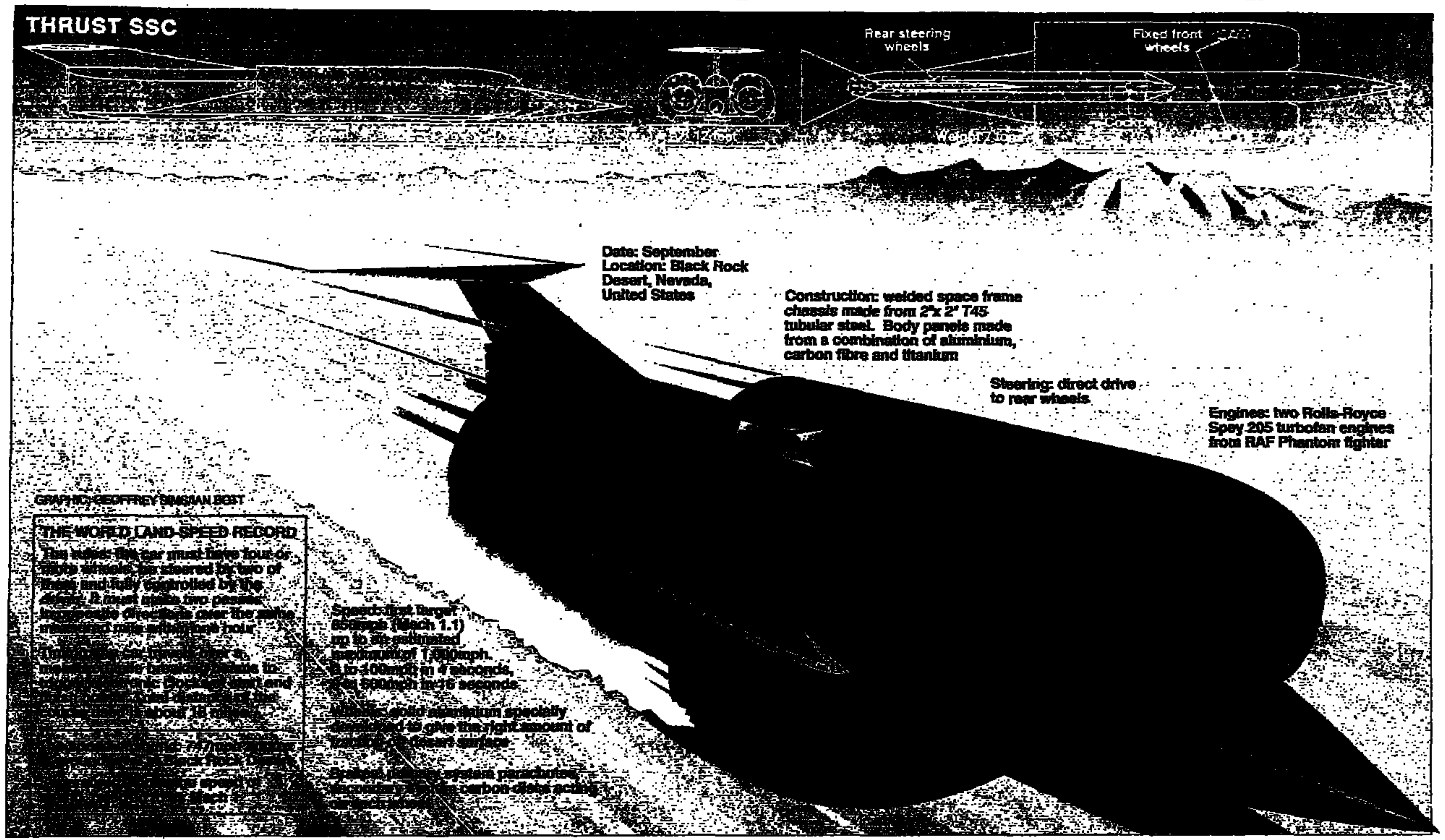
CAR 95

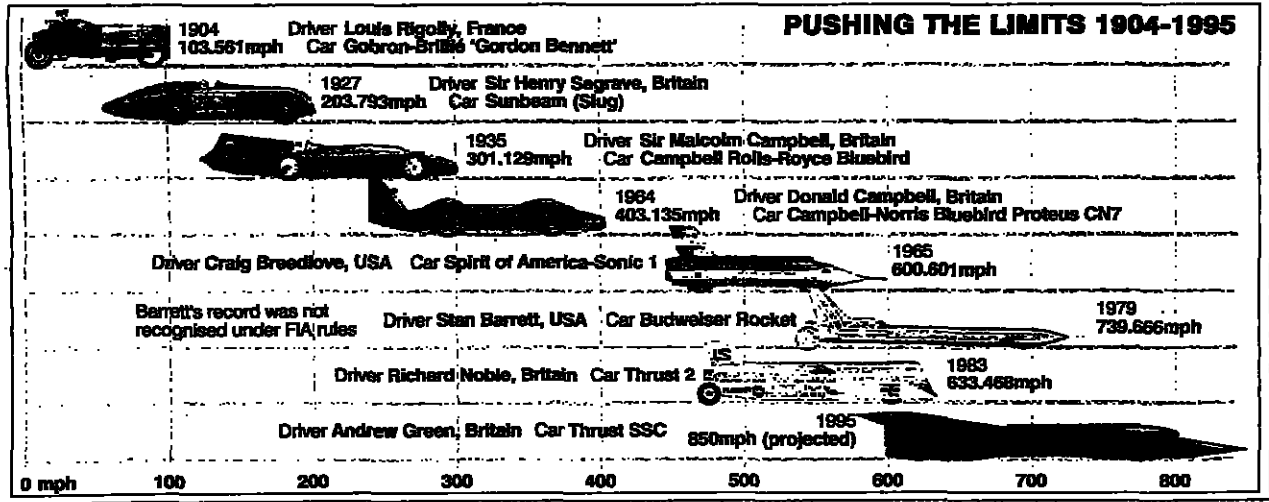
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 4 1995

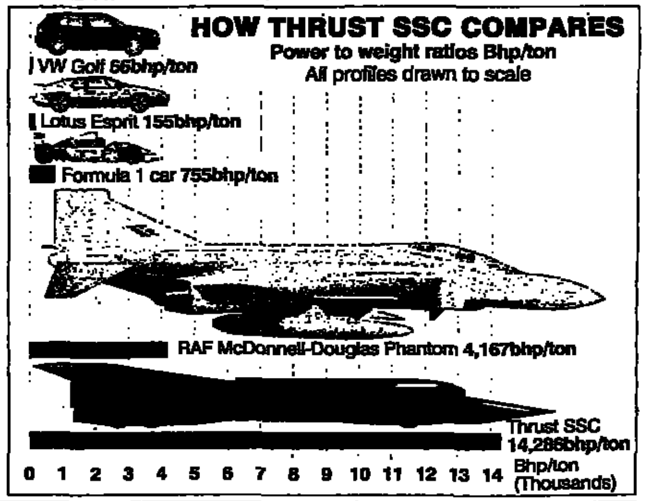
The Jaguar — is this the first car to beat the thief?
Page 10

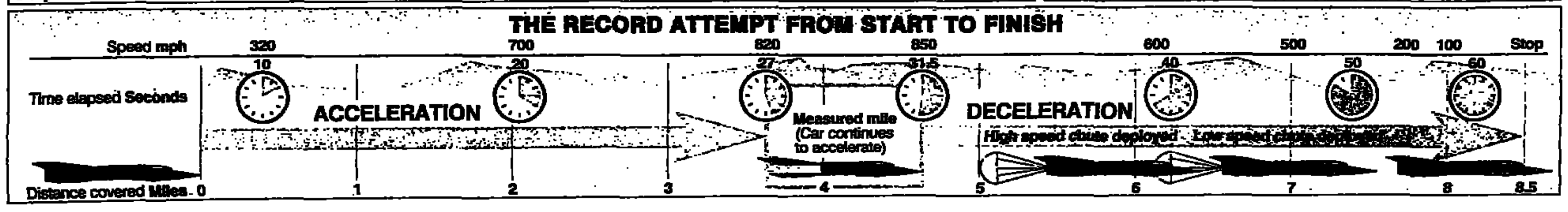
This car will try to smash the sound barrier. Is the pilot crazy or Britain's bravest man?

Drive into history at 850mph


THRUST SSC
Rear steering wheels
Fixed front wheels
Date: September
Location: Black Rock Desert, Nevada, United States
Construction: welded space frame chassis made from 2"x 2" T45 tubular steel. Body panels made from a combination of aluminium, carbon fibre and titanium
Steering: direct drive to rear wheels
Engines: two Rolls-Royce Spey 205 turbofan engines from RAF Phantom fighter
THE WORLD LAND-SPEED RECORD
850mph (Mach 1.1)
600mph in 16 seconds
solid aluminium specially
to give the right amount of
desert surface
carbon discs acting







Andy Green is either crazy . . . or the bravest man in Britain. For he will be strapped into a machine with the power of 141 Formula One cars and fired through the sound barrier within 30 seconds of pushing his foot down on the throttle (Kevin Eason writes).

Green is used to travelling at 850mph — but several hundred feet up in the air in his RAF Tornado. This time, Flight Lieutenant Green will not leave the ground, if all goes well, *during the most ambitious* attempt yet on the world land-speed record.

Not content with breaking his own record of 633.468mph, set 12 years ago, Richard Noble has set up a £5 million project to make a Briton the first man through the sound barrier in a four-wheel car.

The brief Noble set was as exacting as any great engineering feat and one which many said was beyond today's designers. Noble, though, is not a man to be told it cannot be done. He wanted a car that would not only break the record but at 747mph, known as Mach 1, leave behind a sonic boom to scare the vultures of Nevada's Black Rock Desert. Then there would have to be more, for he believed the *right car could hurtle on to* 850mph (Mach 1.1) and even 1,000mph. The car — Thrust SSC (for supersonic car) — will be rolled out in June and Noble is confident it can achieve his targets because his small team has overcome two key problems.

THE PILOT

Flt Lt Andy Green flies Tornados, hurtles down the Cresta Run on a bobsleigh, runs marathons and has a first-class degree from Oxford..................Page 3

The first was finding enough power, which in Thrust's case comes from two Rolls-Royce Spey engines (normally fitted to RAF Phantom fighter-bombers) that provide 106,000 brake horse-power. To understand that much thrust, imagine 141 Formula One cars or 1,000 Ford Escorts welded together to achieve a single surge, enough to catapult Thrust to 100mph in four seconds then 600mph in 16 seconds. Within 30 seconds, the car will be at maximum speed and have covered five miles of snooker table-flat desert sand.

The second problem was more irksome. A projectile as sleek and aerodynamic as *Thrust* will want to obey the laws of physics and take off as it reaches top speeds. If it succeeds, the dream will be shattered in an appalling fraction of a second.

From his experience with the first Thrust mission in 1983, Noble understood the risks only too well. Missiles expert Ron Ayers helped devise the trick of shifting the centre of gravity further to the front of the car by moving the engines forward and placing the driver on a perch in the middle. That should keep Thrust's nose pinned to the ground as the needle on the speedometer winds round towards 800mph.

At that point, the driver will be able to do little more than watch and wait as the two huge Rolls-Royce jets, worth £1.5 million each, roar furiously on either side of his tiny cockpit, firing Thrust to record speeds.

Green is well aware that if anything goes wrong, he will *be measuring mortality in* fractions of a second. Noble spelled out the risk factor to 30 applicants wanting the place of honour in the record books: he wrote to each individually and ranked the risk as somewhere between high — and very high.

Yesterday, Green became the would-be successor to Noble's title as the world's fastest man, chosen for skills that bear little relation to a Nigel Mansell but are those of a jet fighter-pilot equipped with high intelligence, remarkable hand-eye coordination and reflexes, the ability to understand the machine's behaviour . . . and the discipline to feel no fear even when the surrounding landscape has disappeared into a blur.

For Green, it is the ultimate dare, a once-in-a-lifetime challenge for a unique place in motoring history. For both Noble and his 32-year-old protege, it is also the chance to prove that Britain still has the skill, enterprise and daring to conquer a new engineering frontier.

If Green succeeds in bursting through the sound barrier in September, he will join a roll call of speed record-breakers that includes John Cobb, Malcolm and Donald Campbell, Henry Segrave — and Noble himself.

"I know it's not fashionable to admit it," Green says, "but to attempt the land-speed record in a British car, with a British flag on the side and a British team supporting me, would make me extremely proud."

PAST MASTERS: SIX FAMOUS BRITONS WHO SHATTERED THE WORLD LAND-SPEED RECORD

HENRY SEGRAVE
1926, 1927, 1929

(SIR) MALCOLM CAMPBELL
1931, 1932, 1933, 1935

GEORGE EYSTON
1937, 1938

JOHN COBB
1938, 1939, 1947

DONALD CAMPBELL
1964

RICHARD NOBLE
1983

Talking toolkits to speed repairs

Kevin Eason on a hi-tech move by the RAC

BREAKDOWN patrolmen will soon repair cars guided by a computer voice that can give information on almost every car to run on the roads of Britain.

The RAC has finished pilot trials of a new hand-held electronic workshop manual, about the size of a portable CD player, which holds the equivalent of 160,000 pages of technical information compiled by the motoring organisation over decades.

By the end of this month, its 1,400 patrolmen will all be equipped with the computer, which contains such accurate data that the time taken at some breakdowns will be halved, says the RAC.

The next stage is to have a synthesised voice talking the patrolman through repairs. He will simply plug in headphones and listen to the instructions as he works under the bonnet.

The "talking toolkit" is under development and still about two years away, says the RAC. Peter Brill, a spokesman, said yesterday: "That is the ultimate goal, so the patrolman can be working with both hands under the bonnet with the computer guiding him through each stage of the repair." At the moment, the patrolman dials in the make and model of the car and describes the fault to the £450 electronic book, which works using a CD-Rom compact disc.

The computer diagnoses the problem, from its memory stored on compact disc, estimates how long a repair will take and how much it will cost. The patrolman then calls up a diagram of the car as a guide to repair the fault.

The computer replaces bulky files that vans have had to carry in the past. Motorcycle patrolmen, unable to carry manuals, have had to rely on their own knowledge or arrange for members to be towed away, but now the computer can be carried in their pockets.

The disc is updated every month so that the RAC is abreast of technical changes on models. Carmakers also get feedback from patrolmen, who log details of each repair so manufacturers can trace any recurring problems with their models.

Mr Brill added: "The sheer weight of information has always been a problem for our patrols. They simply could not carry every piece of information with them and they would have to struggle with manuals in the pouring rain.

"The computer stores all that information in one tiny package, doing away with the need for all that paper. We estimate that we will save on sending out 30,000 sheets of A4 size paper this year with each patrol — the equivalent of 3,200 trees."

INSIDE

AA Gridlock Guide............P2
Peter Barnard.....................P2
Used cars..............................P7
Dr Dashboard...................P9
Road Test..........................P10
Steering Column.............P11

The best.
For less.

With its class-beating payload, cargo capacity and turning circle it won't surprise you that the Hijet was voted 'Best Micro Van', by 'What Van?' for the 2nd year running. But what will surprise you is that it now not only has a fuel-injected engine, for more power and even better fuel economy, but is actually down in price.

Daihatsu Hijet EFI £5,750 + VAT including 3 year/60,000 mile warranty

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DAIHATSU

NO-NONSENSE VEHICLES FROM JAPAN.

PRICE CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS (EXCLUDES VAT). DELIVERY AND NUMBER PLATES £361.70 (EXCLUDING VAT)

How can it cost more to have a car sent 15 miles from a factory in Swindon than from Toledo, Ohio?

Stand and deliver: a case of highway robbery

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION

Peter Barnard

According to the motor trade, if I buy a shirt at Marks & Spencer I pay a delivery charge. Nobody complains to M & S about that, but everybody complains to the motor trade about their delivery charges. Therefore, the motor trade is being unfairly singled out by people like me.

I said at the outset that this column would be unfair if it so chose, so let us get on with a campaign to get rid of delivery charges. First, we shall have to deal with the M & S comparison. The price of a shirt in that store is, of course, dictated by the cost of making it and getting it to the rack, plus a mark-up or profit margin.

This is normal commercial practice and it differs in one crucial way from the delivery charges imposed by motor manufacturers. A shirt in M & S is marked with a price and nothing is added on at the check-out for delivery. The price of cars is almost always advertised net of the delivery charge.

I take a random example from the back cover of Top Gear magazine, which carries an advert for the Seat range. You would have to be registered blind not to read "the Seat range starts at £6,767*" but I need reading glasses to discover what the asterisk refers to: "Price excludes £410 cost of delivery to dealer premises and number plates."

Nearly every manufacturer is up to this stunt and a stunt is what it is. Nor does the delivery charge remotely reflect the cost of getting a vehicle from the manufacturer to the dealer. I happen to live 15 miles from the Honda factory in Swindon, but a Honda Accord built there will cost me £382.98 for delivery charge and number plates, excluding VAT. A Jeep Cherokee, which is built in Toledo, Ohio, will cost me £330 for delivery and plates, excluding VAT. As I said, no relation.

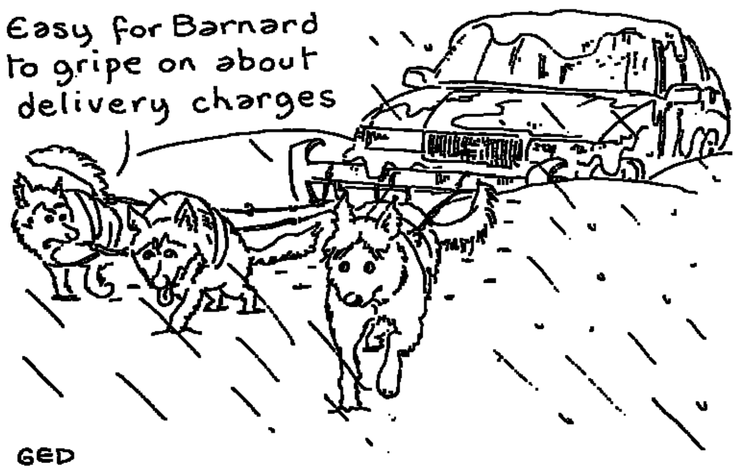
Worse yet, a motor car appears to be one of the few items on which one pays VAT twice, first on the base vehicle price and again on the delivery charge.

I am told by the Retail Motor Industry Federation that there is an "ongoing discussion" as to whether these charges should be incorporated in the overall sales figure. This discussion should not be ongoing, it should stop right now.

But bear in mind when next a dealer offers you a "discount" that the first amount he will knock off is the equivalent of the delivery charge, which is not much of a sacrifice. And I do know of people who have simply refused to pay the delivery charge and got their way, although, again, they are only getting an equivalent reduction because dealers have to pay the charge anyway.

What's needed is a conspiracy between dealers and their customers, which would stop this archaic nonsense in a very short time. Meantime, I salute those few manufacturers who advertise "on the road" prices: they deserve to do business.

By the way, in case you are wondering about the mysterious art of providing number plates as part of the "delivery package", my local auto spares shop will knock them up, while you wait, for £11 a pair.


Easy for Barnard to gripe on about delivery charges
GED

My complaint about minuscule rear lights on lorries has brought gratifying support from fellow sufferers, but I am not here to make motorists feels superior.

So what about the dreadful hordes who apparently think that an overcast sky (about the only kind we have had lately) is a signal for the illumination of all available lights, by day and by night?

These overlit freaks have decided that fog lights are *de rigeur* whether or not it is foggy, especially on motorways.

Rear fog lights can be blinding in clear weather and the police tell me that their unnecesary use constitutes careless driving. They will, and do, prosecute.

Good.

THE AA'S GRIDLOCK GUIDE

LONDON

A316 busy and London Rd closed for an hour after the England v France match at Twickenham today.

A316 Twickenham Bridge, near Richmond: one lane each way until end of March.

A406 North Circular Rd, Upper Edmonton: width reduced on Lea Valley Viaduct until end of 1995.

A219 Putney Bridge: one lane each way for repairs until June.

A214 Trinity Rd, Wandsworth: temporary lights at junction with Burntwood Lane cause regular delays, especially in mornings until end of March.

A110 Windmill Hill, Enfield: roadworks at junction with Church St — one lane westbound.

A501 Kings Cross one-way system: major work starts Monday. First stage will be overnight lane closures.

SOUTH EAST

M25 Surrey J7-8 (M23/Reigate): contraflow causes regular delays and affects traffic joining from M23 northbound.

M25 Surrey J10-11 (A3/Chertsey): widening work with contraflow.

A3 Guildford: contraflow between Abbotswood and the Cathedral interchange.

A329 Bracknell, Berkshire: roadworks at Met Office roundabout (junc with the A322/A3095/B3022).

A27 Chichester Bypass, Sussex: contraflow between Westhampnett and Whyke roundabouts.

A3020 Cowes: temporary lights Newport Rd junction with Three Gates Rd for roundabout construction.

SOUTH WEST

M4 Avon J20-21 (Almondsbury/Aust): roadworks affecting both carriageways.

M32 Avon J1-2 (Filton/Eastville): lane restrictions both ways for bridge work — peak time delays.

M5 Gloucestershire J11-12 (Cheltenham/Gloucester): contraflow until September.

M5 Devon near J27 (Tiverton): contraflow and northbound entry slip road closed.

A419 Swindon: contraflow between Turnpike roundabout and A361 junction, with slip road onto B4141 Hyde Rd closed.

A3074 Cornwall: temporary lights between St Ives and Carbis Bay. St Ives-bound traffic should use Coach Rd signposted at Lelant.

A3029 Bristol, Avon: Merchants Rd closed in the Cumberland Basin System at Junction Lock Bridge (delays on Anchor Rd and Cumberland Rd).

MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA

M6 West Midlands J4a-6 (near Birmingham): major work with a contraflow until March.

M5 West Midlands J3-4 (South-west of Birmingham): lane closures for barrier and lighting work, with additional restrictions sometimes overnight until end of February.

A1M near Blyth, Nottinghamshire: contraflow between Harworth and the A614 until March.

A38 north of Derby, Derbyshire: major work starting on the Little Eaton bypass with lane restrictions and contraflow.

A52 Nottingham Ring Road: roadworks between Dunkirk and Nottingham Knight until April.

A45 Stonebridge, West Midlands: flyover construction at the A452 junction and widening between the M42 J6 & Stonebridge Island — (40mph limit and lane closures).

A146 Oulton Broad, Suffolk: roadworks on Beccles Rd with lane restrictions eastbound and diversion westbound.

NORTH

M6 Cheshire J20-21A (Lymm/Croft): roadworks continue near Thelwall Viaduct until May.

M18 South Yorkshire J3-4 (Doncaster area): reconstruction starts from Monday.

M57 Merseyside J1 (Tarbock Island): roadworks and lane closures at the roundabout junction with M62, additional restrictions at weekends until April.

M62 Humberside J34-35 (Whitley Bridge/Langham): contraflow two lanes each way and eastbound entry slip road at J34 closed.

A61 Leeds, West Yorkshire: width restrictions at the Crown Point Bridge.

A655 near Castleford: temporary lights working in Whitwood and down to one lane either way under the M62 bridge until March.

WALES

M4 Gwent J23-22 (Magor/Newhouse): lane restrictions and contraflow for widening between Magor and Rogiet for the construction of the second Severn crossing until June.

A472 Pontypool: demolition works on Pontymoile Gyratory with lane restrictions and temporary lights affecting Rockhill Rd especially until end of March.

A5 Maerdy, Clwyd: improvements continue at Glyn bends. Various restrictions including temporary lights at times and short-term closures until end July.

A465 West Glamorgan, between Llandarcy and Aberdulais: contraflow on Sailings viaduct for resurfacing until June.

A4223 Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan: one-way system on Gelliwastad Road for widening work.

SCOTLAND

M9 and M8 towards Edinburgh will be busy as will the A8 Glasgow Rd and St Johns Rd — Scotland v Ireland at Murrayfield.

M90 Tayside J8-9 (Arlary/Muirmont): contraflow in operation for roadworks.

M8 Lothian J1 (Newbridge): various restrictions between J1 and the Edinburgh City bypass as the motorway is under construction.

Edinburgh: Width restrictions on the High Street between the North and South bridges; roadworks at Kings Rd roundabout Portobello with restrictions on all approaches.

A741 Paisley, Strathclyde: contraflow on Renfrew Rd.

NORTHERN IRELAND

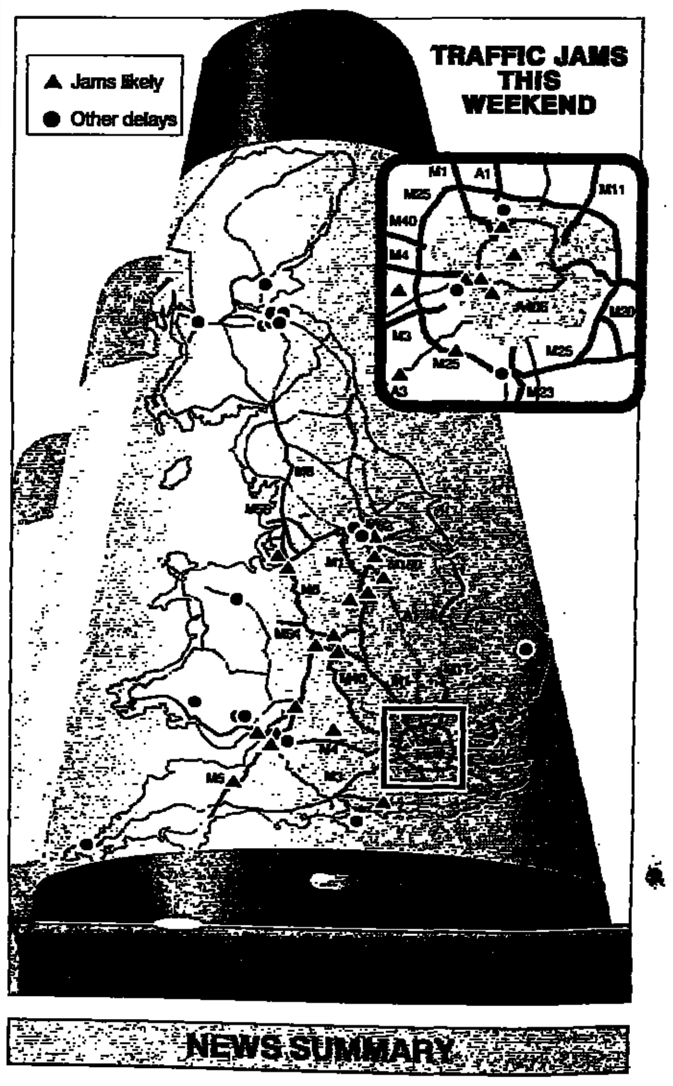
A6 Co Londonderry: temporary lights on Glenshane Rd, Cashel for resurfacing until March.

A24 Co Londonderry: temporary lights on Belfast Rd, Ballynahinch at junction with Moss Rd.

A26 Co Londonderry: temporary lights on Greenhill Rd at the junction with Ballymoney bypass.

A37 Limavady, Co Londonderry: temporary lights on Broad Rd for resurfacing until April.

Downpatrick, Co Down: Market St has become one-way between Patrick's Avenue and Irish St in connection with water mains laying.



Fatal flaws in child car seats

Some baby restraints can be lethal, says new research.

Vaughan Freeman assesses the safety options on offer

Safety-conscious parents who carefully clunk-click their children into specially-designed and often costly child car seats before every drive could be strapping their youngsters into death traps.

The most common kind of child seat, which faces forward and is held in place by an adult lap or three-point seat belt, is fatally flawed, according to the latest research by Renault's safety experts. A switch for all children under four to rear-facing seats would halve the number of children killed and injured each year, they say.

The French manufacturer also claims that many child seats held in place by an adult three-point seat belt and used for older children can cause grievous abdominal injuries. This is because they are not sufficiently well designed to prevent "submarining", which occurs when, in an accident, the child slides under the lap portion of the belt and the belt cuts into the child's abdomen.

Renault, which has a team of 400 experts who spend £80 million a year researching car safety, is so concerned that it is inviting every child restraint manufacturer in the world to a special safety conference to be held in Paris next month to discuss the dangers.

Renault is also to train at least one member of staff at each of its UK dealerships to give car buyers advice on the restraint most appropriate for their child, taking into account age, weight and height. The car maker will, in addition, launch a new range of restraints, designed in conjunction with Volvo, the acknowledged leaders in automotive safety.

Adrian Roberts, senior scientist with the Government's Transport Research Laboratory, does not believe the Renault findings make forward-facing seats obsolete overnight: "Forward-facing seats are giving us a very good performance and we believe there is no serious problem with them," he said.

"Rear-facing seats for younger children have their advantages but remember that in smaller cars it is sometimes impossible to get a rear-facing seat in. Also, many rear-facing seats are used on the front passenger seat so the driving parent can maintain eye contact with the child. In cars where there is an airbag on the passenger side, such seats simply must not be used."

Roberts agrees that forward-facing booster seats should keep the lap belt in place to avoid submarining. He says, though, that most problems will be avoided by buying a restraint carrying the British Standards Institution (BSI) kite-mark, and/or the Brussels-approved European Regulation R44 marking, and by seeking professional advice on choice and fitting.

Renault's new range includes the revolutionary rear-facing Argonaute model, which encloses the child's body and head. The seat is held securely in place within the car by a metal brace from the floor and an additional floor harness, as well as the car's own seat belts.

Ignorance is rife among parents buying child restraints. The BSI estimates that four restraints in five in this country are wrongly fitted or inappropriate. In America, it is estimated that 70 per cent of child restraints are wrongly fitted. Only one British parent in 20 takes professional advice about fitting restraints for their children.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents estimates that two in three of the 70 or so youngsters under 14 killed each year in cars, and the 1,400 seriously injured, could be helped by properly-fitted restraints.

Claude Tarriere, director of Renault's car safety department, says: "Figures from Sweden, where the death and injury rate among young children travelling in cars has more than halved since 1972, show that rear-facing restraints for children under four are more than 90 per cent effective in protecting the child in an accident. That is more than twice as effective as forward-facing seats.

"If rear-facing seats were used in France, Great Britain and elsewhere, we estimate children would have twice the chance of surviving accidents."

Because children under four have a relatively weak neck but a large and heavy head relative to the still growing body, massive spinal and thorax injuries are common in accidents. If a child is strapped securely into a forward-facing seat, the impact whips its head forward on to its chest.

A rear-facing seat restrains the head and spreads the impact across the child's back, reducing such injuries.

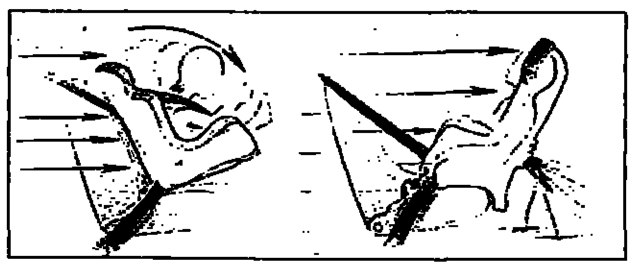
Tarriere also wants a redesign of forward-facing seats for older children so the lap-belts are held in place flat over the tops of the thigh, to prevent submarining. Adult belts are held in the correct position because they catch on the hooked top of a grown-up's pelvis. The pelvis of a child under 12 is not fully developed and allows the belt to slide up and into the abdomen.

Part of the problem, Tarriere believes, is that safety designers still think too much in terms of the adult and do not realise just how much the morphology of the child differs. He stresses, too, that it is no good designing safe seats if they are uncomfortable.

Which is why Renault has developed "Gulliver", a massive car with child restraints that dwarf the largest adult, to give grown-ups an idea of how daunting, uncomfortable and intimidating cars can be for a small child. The 6in-wide seat belts are heavy and bulky, the inertia reels almost impossible to pull. Belts and buckles are cumbersome, and dig in, while thoughtfully-positioned toy pockets are out of reach. Gulliver reminds adults of what it is like to travel in a vehicle that, for all the advances, is still designed for large, strong grown-ups.

To drive home the point, Tarriere believes governments, schools, doctors, health visitors and maternity clinics should inform parents about child car safety.

Safety first: a booster seat for children aged 4-10, and the rear-facing Argonaute



Feeling small: Renault's Claude Tarriere in Gulliver; and how forces on impact affect front- and rear-facing child seats

AGE GUIDE

☐ **Up to nine months, less than 10kg: rear-facing baby seat with built-in three-point harness in either front or rear.**

☐ **Up to four years, under 18kg: rear-facing Renault Argonaute style seat.**

☐ **Nine months to four years, under 18kg (if there is insufficient space for an Argonaute style): front-facing restraint with built-in five-point harness.**

☐ **Three-and-a-half years to seven, 15kg to 25kg: lap table (for use when lap belt only available).**

☐ **Three years to 12, 15kg to 36kg: booster seat with rear head restraint, using the car's three-point adult belt.**

HOW TO KEEP YOUR CHILD SAFE

☐ Ensure the restraint suits the weight and size of the child; do not buy according to age alone.

☐ Make sure the restraint has a British Standard number and kitemark, or a European legislation coding (E number).

☐ The restraint should be matched to your vehicle; certain manufacturers recommend specific makes.

☐ Take expert advice on the sort of restraint you need and, crucially, how it should be fitted to your vehicle and used.

☐ By law, children under three in the front seat must be in an appropriate restraint. If a child restraint is fitted in the front of the car but not in the rear, children under three must use that restraint. If a child restraint or seatbelt is available in the front but not in the rear, children aged three to 11 under 1.5 metres in height (5ft) must use it. The driver is legally responsible for the correct use of restraints (obligatory in the UK for children up to 11) and seat belts must be used by children under 16.

☐ The law varies in other countries, so check before you drive in Europe. In Sweden, a child under seven cannot travel in a car at all unless in a child seat or restraint. In Italy, the same applies to children under four and those aged 4 - 12 must have restraints if they travel in the front. Restraints for front seats are obligatory almost everywhere. In Spain the rule applies to under-12s, in France to under-10s and in both countries children must use rear restraints if fitted. In Germany, children under 12 are not allowed in the front except in specialised restraints, and in rear seats children under 12 or 1.5metres must use child seats or restraints if fitted. State laws vary in America but in California, for example, a child restraint is mandatory for children under four or weighing less than 40lbs, and in Florida children under six must travel in a federally-approved child restraint.

☐ For further help call the British Standards Institution (0908 220022); Britax Excelsior Ltd (0264 333343); and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (021 200 2461). Or contact your road safety officer through your local council, or in Scotland, through your regional council.

NEWS SUMMARY

Pollution check anger

Proposals to allow local authorities to stop cars for pollution checks are meeting fierce opposition. The Freight Transport Association, which has 12,000 member companies, fears that private agencies will increasingly take on policing tasks on the roads but says only police should be allowed to stop traffic. Some motoring groups also say drivers should beware being flagged down by anyone not in police uniform.

AA issues tax warning

Motoring organisations are warning that increases in vehicle excise duty from £85 a year to £4,250 on recovery vehicles could lead to severe cutbacks. The AA says that operators cannot recoup the tax increase because their vehicles stand idle for long periods until needed and then they are vital, particularly during periods of bad weather.

Zil factories close

Could this be the end of the road for the giant Zil limousines which were regulation transport for Soviet heads of state for decades? The company is reported to be closing 12 factories because it cannot afford to pay for components. Zil, put into the private sector two years ago, needs £164 million to restart production.

Drink-drive proposal

The Guild of Experienced Motorists wants Britain's drink-drive limits lowered in line with the rest of Europe. The guild's proposals would mean the current limit of 80 milligrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood coming down to 50 milligrammes. The group claims support from the Parliamentary Advisory Safety Council for Transport Safety.

Kevin Eason talks to the two men behind a new British attempt on the world land-speed record

Noble deeds: a thrifty Golf and global glory

The man who has driven faster than any other on earth gets behind the wheel of a Volkswagen diesel every day.

Richard Noble, who set the world land-speed record of 633.468mph in his Thrust 2 more than a decade ago, leaves behind the world of super-fast jet power and chooses a sturdy, efficient and economical Golf turbo diesel for a more sedate form of daily transport.

In fact, Noble is so enthusiastic about diesel power that his D-registered Golf TD covered 150,000 miles before he sold it.

"Few cars can do a reliable 150,000 miles," he says. "Over that distance, costs per mile tumble after 100,000 miles. We achieved about 14p a mile with the old car."

In fact, it would be difficult to think of a more stark contrast between the two generations of Thrust land-speed cars and a VW Golf diesel.

While the Golf is designed to carry five people in comfort and safety, to carry a payload of shopping and allow *The Archers* to be heard without shouting, Thrust 2 was simply a superpowered rocket on wheels built to get Mr Noble to top speed in the shortest possible time.

As Mr Noble and his team grapple with the intricacies of making a car which is essentially an aircraft designed to travel on the ground, consider the contrast: Thrust SSC (for supersonic car), the car Mr Noble wants to be first through the sound barrier, is eight times faster and more than 1,000 times more powerful than his Golf — but the Golf is 2,300 times more economical, happily returning 55 miles to the gallon. Thrust SSC will gulp fuel at the rate of a gallon every 42 yards.

Even when away from the workshops at Fontwell, West Sussex, where Thrust 2's successor is being built, Mr Noble clearly cannot keep his hands away from machinery. He services his Golf himself and tinkers with modifications to get more power and economy.

The old 1.6 Golf got a bigger intercooler, a new air intake in the front spoiler and a new exhaust. The result: 45 miles to the gallon at 100mph and a 120mph top speed.

No need to modify the new 1.9 TDi, he says, although he may stiffen the suspension to take some of the roll out of the car.

It is not surprising that Mr Noble is prepared to take on even Volkswagen's renowned engineering. Now 48 and married with three children, he shows no signs of slowing down or abandoning the dreams that seem to belong to an altogether more romantic age. At a time when innovators are tied to computer screens and robots carry out the graft of engineering work, Mr Noble is a throwback with the sort of sleeves-rolled-up energy and enthusiasm that gets things done no matter what the obstacles.

Keen Golfer: Richard Noble with his two Volkswagen diesels

In a far distant age, he might not have invented the wheel but he would have made it rounder and stuck it on to a remarkably quick chariot that would frighten the life out of an enemy invader.

The first Thrust project was very much a Noble effort, started in 1974 as he was working his way up through the engineering industry. Born in Edinburgh, Mr Noble started in business with ICI before moving to GKN, one of Britain's biggest car component groups, as an overseas marketing manager.

The urge was there, however, for something different and glorious enough to consume every ounce of his passion. That project was to be the attempt on the world land-speed record.

He founded Thrust Cars more in hope than certainty. By 1980, though, the obsession had become a full-time job, marshalling sponsors and the team towards the first British land-speed record attempt since Donald Campbell's in 1964.

He chose to drive the car himself, risking not just reputation but life and limb, too.

Those who thought his record-breaking 1983 run would cure him should have known better. Three years ago, he was called by McLaren, the Formula One Grand Prix team, wanting to borrow film footage of Thrust 2. That set the wheels turning as Mr Noble wondered why.

He realised an attempt on his record was on the way — and he decided to get there first.

His over-riding passions are speed and practicality, and modern road cars leave him uninspired.

"I seek maximum efficiency," he says. "I am contemptuous of cars that go wrong but I'm not really interested in having pretty cars or very expensive cars. They just must be totally practical."

Go-getter chases boyhood ambition

Pilot who will try to break sound barrier on land is a proven winner

The breed comes straight from the pages of *Boys' Own* and *The Wizard*. After heroes such as Roy of the Rovers and Tupper of the Track, who excited earlier generations, comes Green of the Sound Barrier for a new age.

It seems almost impossible to describe Flight Lieutenant Andy Green, BA, RAF, in terms less than the breathless prose of the comic book characters whose feats were always superhuman.

Roy of the Rovers scored his hat-tricks in the last five minutes of the Cup Final and Alf Tupper somehow broke four-minute miles after feasting on fish and chips. Those men were square-jawed, clear-eyed, unassuming . . . and, by God, they were British.

Now we have a real-life Action Man in Andy Green, the man chosen to pilot the Thrust SSC through the sound barrier.

He flies Tornado fighters for a living and hurtles down the Cresta Run on a bobsleigh for fun. He runs marathons at speeds that would make top-class athletes envious, but just as an occasional pastime, and he rides motorcycles. Oh, and he has a first-class degree in maths from Oxford.

When he won his pilot's wings, he was judged top student. After his weapons training, he won the prize for best dive-bombing performance. When he moved on to fly Phantom fighter-bombers, he graduated as best student.

The list of achievements is impressive, but the best may yet be to come if he can steer Thrust SSC through the sound barrier to set a new world land-speed record.

Flt Lt Green gets his chance because he was judged the best of the breed, the man with The Right Stuff, to quote Tom Wolfe's famous account of the lives and deaths of US Air Force test pilots.

Thirty men applied to drive Thrust SSC, all pilots apart from a couple of dragster racers. They faced a rigorous and gruelling selection procedure over nearly six months, including psychological and physical tests and a day dashing round a race track in a Volkswagen Golf GTi. It was a procedure closer to that used for astronauts than drivers.

Most of the competition was from fellow RAF pilots who had flown missions in the Gulf War and were used to the terrors of low flying at high speeds in machines costing upwards of £17 million.

'It's about the most exciting thing a man could do'

Andy Green, though, was the man who combined all the required talents, and he will need every one of those skills to face the daunting tasks ahead.

Even when reminded that too many of the men who made a bid for the land-speed record have not lived to tell the tale, he is undaunted.

"Most of the deaths and injuries come from a long time ago," he said last night. "Even with speeds climbing from 300mph to 600mph over the past 30 years, there have been almost no serious accidents and there is a big team making a very safe car for me.

"There is obviously a risk, but it is not something to worry about. It is an extra challenge and something which has excited me from when I was a boy and learned of the exploits of people like the Campbells, John Cobb and Richard Noble himself."

When he climbs into the cockpit of Thrust SSC for the record-breaking run, Green will probably have had no more than 40 minutes experience of driving a machine so individual in character. The steering is like a canal boat, coming from the rear wheels, and the acceleration is the same as that of a jet fighter taking off. Richard Noble says that from 0-350mph, the car "slides all over the place", yet the driver will have to understand and control what is happening to report to the support team, and understand a car so complex that its wiring diagram is like a Boeing 747's.

Just back from a tour of duty flying his Tornado F3 on patrol over Bosnia, he is clearly equipped with the rapid reflexes and calm character the Thrust team will need when they reach Black Rock Desert to start the record attempt.

He is remarkably cool about what is to come this summer when his dream of legend becomes hard fact. A single man, he warned his parents, who live in Norwich, what might be to come two weeks ago. His father, a former fire officer, and mother simply said: "Good luck. We understand."

They must have learned to live with a high achiever. Born in Atherstone, Warwickshire, in 1962, Green gained 11 O-levels, four A-levels and 2 S-levels. When not winning academic prizes, he was rowing for Oxford University. He flew back from Switzerland this week after competing with the RAF's elite Cresta Team and recently ran the Berlin Marathon in under three hours.

Most of his work over the next few months will be designing a cockpit which, if not comfortable, will have every switch, dial and lever exactly where he wants it. "I have spent the past ten years in cockpits so I understand how important it is to know your way around everything instinctively," he said.

"Somehow, breaking the world land-speed record is a very British thing to do," he summed up. "It is part of our tradition in this country to tackle impossible things and achieve them. It is unique and just about the most exciting thing a man could do to drive the most powerful car on earth."

LES KOLCZAK

Speed king: Flt Lt Andy Green with the Golf GTi he raced for a day during the gruelling six-month selection procedure

RIVALS FOR THE RECORD

SPIRIT OF AMERICA
Led by Craig Breedlove, this is probably the main challenger from the United States. Breedlove first broke the record in 1963 in Spirit of America and followed with four more records up to 1965, first through the 500mph and then the 600mph barrier.

McLAREN MAVERICK
Secrecy surrounds the team's Woking headquarters but Ron Dennis, McLaren's boss, means business and has the budget to back the attempt. Some motor industry observers claim he has £25 million to spend on the Maverick — about as much as a Formula One team annual budget — and sponsors would clearly queue to join a McLaren project. How fast McLaren can get to the start line is unknown, though the company's talented designers and engineers are said to be working flat out. Unlike Thrust SSC, which will have twin engines, McLaren has opted for a single Rolls-Royce RB199 engine with 17,000lb of thrust, compared with Thrust's potential 100,000lb.

Dennis: has budget

AUSSIE INVADER
Likely contender run by Rosco McGlashan already on a dried lake near Adelaide. The car has already hit 538mph.

XI-RJ
Using a combined jet engine with a rocket booster similar to an Apollo lunar landing module, this speedster comes from an American drag racing team. The car has been tested at close to 400mph using the jet engines but 740mph is the target.

AMERICAN EAGLE
Also a dragster team and possibly the least likely to succeed on form.

GREEN MONSTER
There was a time when Art Arfons, Green Monster's champion, was battling for records with Breedlove. He has three records to his name, the last of 576mph set in 1965.

FROM 0 TO 600MPH

The first world land-speed record was set in 1898 when Gaston de Chasseloup-Laubat drove his Jeantaud electric car at 39mph. In 1904 Paul Baras in a Darracq broke 100mph. The 200mph mark was reached by Henry Segrave in his Sunbeam Slug at Daytona, Florida in 1927. From 1923 to 1947 Segrave and his fellow Britons Malcolm Campbell, J.G. Parry Thomas, George Eyston and John Cobb pushed the record to 394mph, set by Cobb in his Railton Mobil Special. The American, Mickey Thompson, was the first to 400mph in 1960 and although Campbell's son, Donald, briefly held the official record in the last Bluebird in 1964, the age of the jet car had dawned. The Americans, Craig Breedlove and Art Arfons, added 200mph in three years. Breedlove reaching 600mph in 1965. In 1979 Stan Barrett broke the sound barrier on land in the Budweiser Rocket, a three-wheeler powered by a Sidewinder missile. That record was never ratified.

Japanese giant launches Euro assault while Ferrari refines a classic

Kevin Eason on a foreign first at the Amsterdam Motor Show

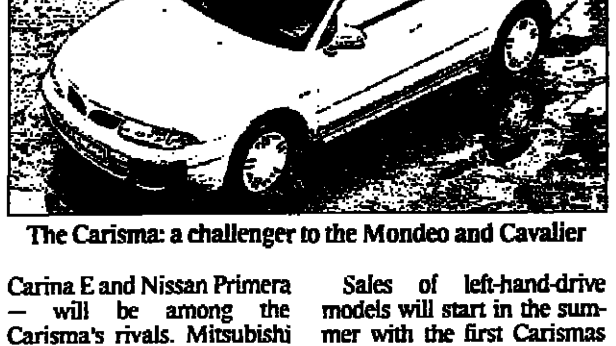
THE look may be distinctively Japanese but the new Mitsubishi will also be a Volvo. The former this week took the wraps of its mid-range Carisma model, which it will also make jointly with Volvo in the Netherlands.

The car will replace the current 400 series and be challenging for more than 200,000 European sales a year, rivalling models such as the Ford Mondeo, Vauxhall Cavalier and Renault Laguna.

Volvo is not unveiling its version for about six months but the Swedish badging will have to disguise what is effectively Japanese styling and engineering, even though some design was done in Germany.

Volvo says its version will be different inside and out, with a Volvo grille and interiors and new petrol engines. Renault will probably supply diesel engines.

For Mitsubishi, the Carisma marks its launch into European production. Nissan, Toyota and Honda spent a total of £2 billion opening plants in the UK, and their British-built models — the Honda Accord, Toyota Carina E and Nissan Primera — will be among the Carisma's rivals. Mitsubishi has chosen to get into Europe as part of a £1.3 billion joint venture with Volvo and the Dutch government.

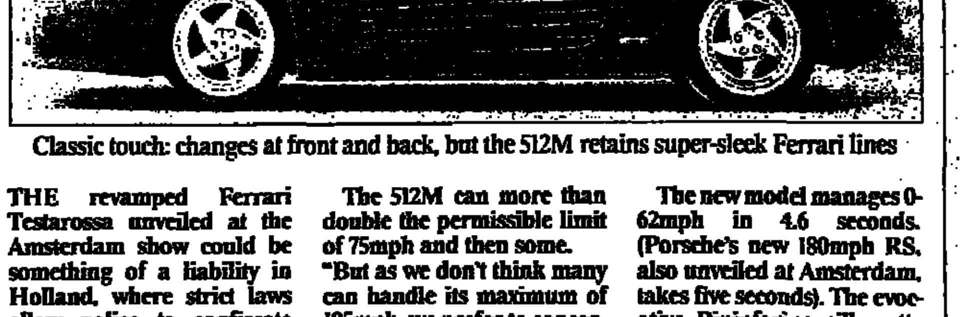


The Carisma: a challenger to the Mondeo and Cavalier

Sales of left-hand-drive models will start in the summer with the first Carismas reaching Britain by November. UK sales are expected to reach 3,000 cars next year, doubling by 1998. Volvo's version, codenamed the V40, is not expected in the UK until early next year.

The Carisma, a five-door hatchback, will come with 1.6-litre and 1.8-litre Mitsubishi engines and both five-speed manual and four-speed automatic gearboxes. The company promises a high level of specification compared to rival models which appeal to company fleet-buyers.

The plant at Born promises to be as efficient as the three big Japanese factories in the UK. Nearly 400 Mitsubishi instructors have been shipped in to teach the Dutch workforce and initial build times are already at about 27 hours per car. The Japanese maker says that figure will be driven down to below 20.



Classic touch: changes at front and back, but the 512M retains super-sleek Ferrari lines

THE revamped Ferrari Testarossa unveiled at the Amsterdam show could be something of a liability in Holland, where strict laws allow police to confiscate and even dispose of cars found exceeding motorway limits by more than 20kph *(Maurice Glover writes)*.

The 512M can more than double the permissible limit of 75mph and then some.

"But as we don't think many can handle its maximum of 195mph, we prefer to concentrate on acceleration," said Ferrari's Dr Antonio Ghini. "That's what puts the oomph into driving".

The new model manages 0-62mph in 4.6 seconds. (Porsche's new 180mph RS, also unveiled at Amsterdam, takes five seconds). The evocative Pininfarina silhouette remains unaltered but modifications have changed appearance at the front and rear.

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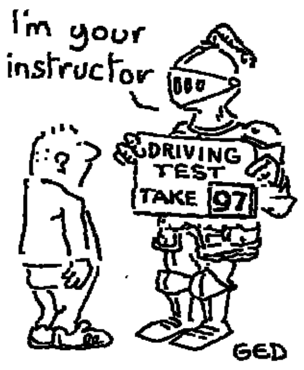


A crash course

Barney Bocks has finally passed his driving test at the 97th attempt. Unfortunately, Mr Bocks, from Chicago, spent £10,000 over 18 years on driving lessons and crashed 17 times. "It was reversing that got me," he said. "Everything else was fine except roundabouts and right turns." Was there anything left apart from going straight and forward?

Skoda success

Britain is the biggest export market for Skoda cars. Sales went up 40 per cent last year to more than 12,100. Not satisfied, the company wants 15,000 British sales this year.

Alfa exit

Alfa Romeo is pulling out of the United States. Sales of 3,500 in 1990 have shrunk to 565 last year. North American dealers were offering only the 164 saloon over the past few months. A parts and service operation remains for 35,000 Alfa Romeo owners.

Vauxhall limit

Buyers of used Vauxhalls from the company's 395 Network Q centres now have a limit of 30 days or 1,000 miles of motoring to exchange their car if not happy with it.

Show dates

The International Performance Show, from February 9 to 12, at Olympia, London, is for fast-car enthusiasts and features both Formula One and Touring Cars. Admission £7.50 for adults and £3.50 for children. Further information 081-892-9252.

Win free tickets, page 12

For 35 years a Haynes manual has been the mechanic's bible. **Guy Walters** discovered the secret

Trouble getting your gearbox out? The answer lies in the Haynes

If you are a wealthy man you shouldn't own a Haynes motor manual. Readers of Hilaire Belloc will know that it is your business "to give employment to the artisan," instead of trying to fix the indicator yourself. That's the theory: but the existence of a Haynes manual for the Porsche 911 Targa suggests that in practice even rich people spend their Sunday mornings under the bonnet.

Haynes manuals celebrate their 35th anniversary this year. The company was founded by its present chairman John Haynes, who in 1954 at the age of 16 built himself an Austin Seven Special, by modifying an old car he had bought for £15. He decided that the knowledge he had acquired should not be wasted, so he produced a 48-page booklet, *Building a 750cc Special*, complete with line drawings. He sold the entire print run of 250 within ten days at 5s a copy.

By 1960, J.H.Haynes and Company had been formed, with four titles in print, including the illegal-sounding *High Speed Driving*, for sale at 8s 11d.

John Haynes and an Austin 7 Special: he wrote his first manual after building one

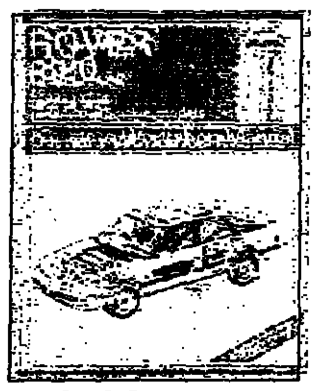
Thirty-five years later, Haynes is now a multi-national publishing company. It has offices in California, Paris and Somerset, and last year the group made a pre-tax profit of £5 million. It now publishes around 350 workshop manuals, all with the distinctive line-drawings on garishly-coloured fronts. The name of Haynes is almost synonymous with the genre; the manuals are essential tools for any budding mechanic.

But why are they so successful? Part of the reason is that they enjoy a near-monopoly. Try naming another manual. However, Haynes has earned its place. The manuals are compiled by taking a car to the Haynes workshop in Sparkford, near Yeovil and stripping it down. Then as the team rebuilds it, each part meticulously is photographed.

"Very often we find something that the manufacturer hasn't actually thought about," says John Haynes, who admits that he was "never a very good mechanic".

"There was a classic case with the Rover 2000. The manufacturer's manual said that to remove the gearbox you had to get the engine out. But we found that we could get the gearbox out, with a lot of fiddling, without taking the engine out. We were able to explain how to do it — so we saved a lot of people a lot of time."

For this reason some Haynes buyers regard the manuals as bibles. Jason Smith, from Streatham in southwest London, has owned four cars, and has bought a Haynes manual for each one. "They are extremely good manuals indeed," he says. "They help to bring out a sort of childlike fascination, rather akin to removing the back of a clock. It's a bit like being shown how a magic trick works." Mr Smith was practically brought up on them: "My father used to buy Haynes manuals when he was buying ridiculous cars such as Austin Maxis and Hillman Minxes. He used to constantly refer to them as the clutches went once a week."


A classic Haynes cover

Whenever Mr Smith sells a car, he always includes the Haynes manual in the sale. "I tell the buyer that the car has got a low mileage and it's in good condition," he says, "and then I tell them there's the requisite Haynes manual in the glove compartment. That always helps."

Perhaps the most distinctive feature of the Haynes manuals is their cutaway drawing on the cover. These were drawn by the now-retired Terry Davey, who was responsible for 220 illustrations. Each one would take eight to fifteen working days. "He wrote to me," John Haynes remembers, "enclosing a line illustration of an aeroplane. It was very good. I asked what he was doing. He said he was sign-writing in Tesco. This was a bloke who was putting 2/6 on a dozen apples."

So where does Haynes go now? It will continue to produce high-quality manuals, and the company has just launched a CD-Rom manual at a show in Las Vegas, which Max Pearce, Haynes's chief executive, believes to be the way forward: "The problem with video," he says, "Is that you can't interrogate it, whereas with CD-Rom you can ask it questions. We've done one for the Mondeo, which is considered the first 'world' car."

It does mean that if you are trying to work on your car you will need the computer in the garage (or the car in your study); but Mr Pearce feels that it will be something one can refer to "after hours".

John Haynes himself is devoting most of his time to the Haynes Motor Museum near the company's headquarters in Somerset.

Many say (and John Haynes sincerely hopes) that the museum rivals Beaulieu in terms of variety and quantity. Among the Porsches, the Ferraris and the Buicks sits a real gem; a 1977 Rover 3500 Estate. Only two were ever built. Try finding a Haynes manual for that.

- *The Haynes Motor Museum is at Sparkford, Somerset. Telephone (0963) 440804*
- *To check whether there is a Haynes manual for your car or to order a free catalogue call 0963 440614*

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The catalytic converter

CATALYSTS take out about 90 per cent of the three worst pollutants in car exhaust fumes — carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides.

These are major contributors to acid rain and photochemical smog and have also been linked to breathing disorders. As catalysts work only when cars are run on unleaded petrol, their introduction has helped reduce the use of lead in fuel — associated with brain damage in children.

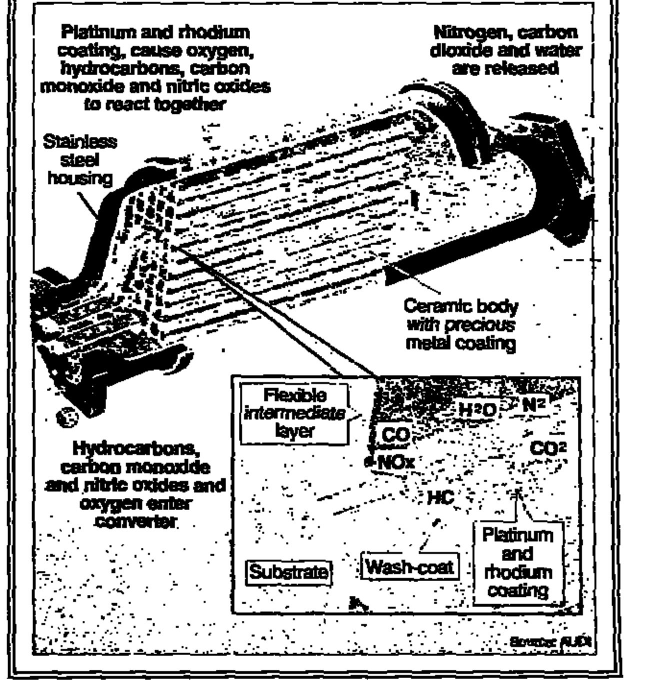
The catalyst is housed within a metal case, similar in size and shape to the exhaust silencer, and sited close to the engine so it can heat up as quickly as possible after ignition to the 200C to 250C temperature at which the cleansing reaction is triggered.

Within the stainless steel case is a honeycombed ceramic or steel block, with a surface area roughly equivalent to two football pitches. This honeycomb is coated with a microscopically thin layer of the precious metals platinum and rhodium.

These metals are called catalysts because they initiate the chemical reactions which "clean" the exhaust gases, but take no part in that reaction themselves. The exhaust gases are forced through the coated honeycomb and the reactions convert the carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides into much less harmful carbon dioxide, water vapour and nitrogen.

Due to their brittle honeycomb structure, catalysts are relatively fragile instruments and so care must be taken when driving over speed humps and kerbs, but otherwise car manufacturers claim they will last the lifetime of the vehicle.

All petrol-engined cars sold new must be fitted with catalytic converters.


Platinum and rhodium coating, cause oxygen, hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide and nitric oxides to react together
Nitrogen, carbon dioxide and water are released
Stainless steel housing
Ceramic body with precious metal coating
Flexible intermediate layer
H2O
N2
CO
NOx
CO2
HC
Hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide and nitric oxides and oxygen enter converter
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Tony Dawe reports on moves to end the scandal of written-off cars being bodged up and returned to our roads

Drive to save used car buyers from fraudsters and thieves

New measures to *protect millions of* used car buyers in Britain from fraudsters and thieves will be considered by MPs *next* week.

They are contained in a Bill designed to stop the scandal of written-off cars being returned *to our roads and* to warn unwary buyers about cars which might have been stolen or are subject to hire purchase or *lease agreements.*

The Bill, tabled by Michael Stephen, Conservative MP for Shoreham, will come before *the Commons* for a second reading on Friday and will move a stage closer to becoming law if no MPs object. It *would establish* a computerised register available to motor dealers and the public to check *the* history of any vehicle *they plan to buy.*

Manufacturers and importers would register details of all new cars, including the vehicle identification number, and finance companies would record cars on lease and HP deals. Insurance companies would then notify the register about cars which had been written off and information would also be stored about stolen vehicles.

The register could operate alongside the existing DVLA register of keepers of vehicles.

The Times disclosed earlier *this year that* one in four of the cars being offered privately for sale that were checked by a vehicle tracking agency had been written off by insurers. We highlighted the case of Cora Tetlow, a childminder from Farnborough, Hants, who paid £2,150 for a C-reg Volkswagen Passat — "big enough to carry plenty of small children" — only to discover that it had previously been written off in a crash and was a danger to drive.

"It is a threat to the safety of road users that vehicles written off should be finding their way back onto our roads," Mr Stephen said. "It is also a scandal that fraudsters have got away with £44 million of honest people's money by selling them cars which were on a lease or HP agreement."

Under present law, an innocent buyer has no right to a car if it proves to have been stolen or subject to a lease agreement and usually loses his money. If the car is on HP, the buyer can keep it if he proves he was unaware of the financial tie but this does not prevent the stress caused while the case is being investigated. Mr Stephen has the backing of the Finance & Leasing Association, whose members were the victims of 9,500 individual frauds last year.

The association would also like the proposed register to record a vehicle's mileage every time it is sold to prevent unscrupulous dealers turning back the odometer and to record MoT tests to prevent the theft and forgery of certificates.

The MP proposes that the new register should be operated by a private company, similar to HPI Autodata of Salisbury, Wiltshire, which began offering a "vehicle tracking" service to private buyers at £15 a time in July 1993 after providing the service to dealers for many years.

The company prides itself on holding extensive data about second-hand cars but there is no legal compulsion for manufacturers or insurers to feed it with information.

Mr Stephen believes his register would be self-financing and linked to car dealers who would be charged for every inquiry. Private buyers could check the register by dialling an 0898 telephone number.

Couple's agonising search for honesty

THE value of a register of used cars has been proved by the experiences of Maurice and Christine Humphrey of Longframlington, Northumberland, when they were searching for a small second-hand car for their daughter, Sarah, 17 (Tony Dawe writes).

They favoured a Fiat Uno and followed up a local advertisement. "The car looked good and the price was right but we decided to check it with HPI Autodata's register," Mrs Humphrey said. The company found a change of number plates had been registered for the vehicle and further inquiries revealed it had been written off a year previously and then put back on the road with new plates three *months later.*

"Clearly, there was something to hide, so we did not proceed with the deal," Mrs Humphrey said. Three days later, she and her husband looked at another Fiat Uno. "It had low mileage but the owner wanted cash so we checked it out and found that it, too, had been written off and then reregistered".

Their next Uno was owned by an elderly man and seemed reliable but they decided to check it after their previous discoveries. It, too, had been written off before the current owner had bought it. "He was as shocked as us as he had been driving around in it for a year," Mrs Humphrey said.

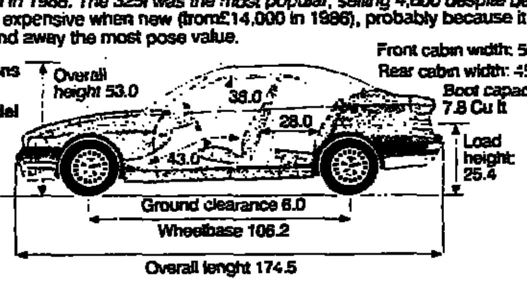
They turned finally to a dealer and discovered a Ford Fiesta which proved what it seemed. Mrs Humphrey said. "It was unbelievable that three cars in a row should prove to be write-offs. We thought the hardest part of buying a second-hand car would be finding value for *money not finding something safe.*

"We regard the £60 paid to HPI as money well *spent but a lot of people on* limited budgets would not bother to check. It's about time something was done to stop written-off cars getting back on the roads."

USED CAR BRIEF

BMW 325I CONVERTIBLE

The BMW 3 Series cabriolet combines the virtues of solid Teutonic build and sophisticated open-top motoring without the compromises and discomfort of shoe-string wind-in-hair driving. More than 8,000 of BMW's own 3 Series convertibles (conversion experts Bauer sold their own cabriolet models in small numbers pre 1986) have sold in the UK since it was first introduced in *325i form in 1986. The 325i was the most popular, selling 4,600 despite being* the most expensive when new (from£14,000 in 1986), probably because it has far and away the most pose value.



GOOD NEWS: BMW's convertible is beautifully thought out and the theory effectively put into practice. As a result the soft top is hard-wearing and easy to operate; it folds cleanly out of sight when down and insulates elements and noise well when up. *Unlike many soft-tops,* the 3 Series is solid and robust and not given to rattles and shakes.

BAD NEWS: The six cylinder engines on the *325i, particularly* on older, higher mileage models, can be smoky. Insurance costs-the car is highly stealable and *maintenance costs can be* off-putting. Good resale values make it a joy to sell on again but dear to buy initially.

LOOK FOR: 325i models have power steering and electric windows plus central locking, and post 1986 325i models have anti-lock brakes as standard. Special editions have electrically powered hoods but are far more expensive.

TO AVOID: Plastic rear windows can scratch badly. Watch for worn brake discs. Older cars (well serviced, the engines can last 200,000 miles without problems) might show oil leaks at the gearbox and differential seals. Cars with bodywork done outside BMW dealerships should be checked carefully.

INSURANCE: BMW Insurance (Tel 0645 320520) give fully comprehensive cover for a 22-year-old man living in Inner London for £2,010 per annum, and a 22-year-woman in Inner London for £1,714. A 55-year-old professional man or woman living in Devon would both pay £409 a year fully comprehensive.

OVERALL: Graham Horder of BMW Cheyne says: "I think it comes down *to sex appeal and the* 325i convertible has more than any of its rivals. It is very easy to live with, with tried and tested technology that everybody knows so servicing is not a problem. Be careful to buy a car with a full service history though."

PRICE: Buy now and you'll save 10 per cent on summer prices, when the cars fetch a "sunshine" premium. *Expect to pay* £24,000 for 12-month old 325i with 6,000 miles, and between £10,000 and £12,000 for a 1988-1989 manual car with 50,000 to *60,000 miles. Automatic,* leather seats and sports wheels add £1,500 to the cost.

REPLACEMENT PARTS (prices include VAT): Clutch assembly £148.88; Full exhaust £237.24; Rear shock absorber (pair) £129.25; Front brakepads £49.94 (set); Alternator £223.25; Starter motor £135.13; Tyre £105.

SAFETY RATING: With full set of inertia seat belts in the rear, and heavier than the 3 Series saloon it is based on, the convertible is advertised by BMW with another car balancing on the windscreen to emphasise strength.

50 BESTSELLING USED CARS

MODEL	PRICE Jan 95	PRICE Feb-95	% Chge
BMW M3 Convertible 2dr	31350	33795	7.79
Peugeot 306 1.6 XS 3dr	9250	9975	7.83
Nissan 300 ZX 3dr Auto	25795	27750	7.58
Fiat Punto 90 ELX 5dr	6900	7425	7.60
Peugeot 306 2 0 Cabriolet 2dr	13325	14325	7.50
Audi 100 2.8E quattro Estate 5dr Auto	16850	18075	7.27
Peugeot 106 XSi 3dr	6875	7375	7.24
Discovery 2.0 MPi 3dr	*13650*	*14500*	*6.23*
Range Rover LSE 4dr Auto	27700	29395	6.12
Audi 80 1.6 4dr	9295	9795	5.38
Mercedes Benz C36 4dr Auto	32000	33695	5.30
Audi 80 TDi Estate 5dr Auto	12850	13495	5.02
Saab 900 SE Convertible 2dr	19450	20395	4.86
Renault Espace 2.0 RXE 5dr	14950	15550	4.01
Audi 100 TDi 5spd Estate	15950	16595	4.04
Nissan Patrol GR SGX D 5dr	14275	14850	4.03
Peugeot 306 1.9 XRD 5dr	*8450*	*8795*	4.02
Renault Espace RT TD 5dr	15275	15895	4.06
Discovery 3.9 V8i S 5dr Auto	19000	19750	3.95
Toyota MR2 GT 2dr	15850	16450	3.79
Volvo 850 2.5 SE Estate 10V 5dr	14495	15000	3.48
Mercedes Benz C220 Classic Auto 4dr	19195	19895	3.65
Fiat Panda 1000 CLX 3dr	3425	3525	2.91
BMW 320i 4dr	15850	16350	3.19
Mazda MX5 1.81 Convertible 2dr	12075	12450	3.11
Ford Mondeo 1.8 LX 5dr	*9125*	*8975*	*-1.64*
Mitsubishi Shogun TD 5dr	20395	20050	-1.68
Ford Escort 1.6i Ghia Estate	9125	8950	-1.92
BMW 525i 4dr	20895	20495	-1.92
Nissan Sunny 2.0 LD 5dr	6595	8475	-1.82
Mercedes Benz C280 Elegance 4dr	24200	23750	-1.86
Vauxhall Cavalier 1.8 LSi 4dr	7675	7495	-2.34
Mitsubishi Sigma V6 12V Estate	15650	15295	-2.27
Rover 820 Vitesse Sport 5dr	14795	14450	-2.33
VW Golf 1.8 Driver 5dr	9550	9295	-2.67
Vauxhall Cavalier 1.6 GLS 5dr	8595	8375	-2.56
BMW 525 TDS Touring SE 5dr Auto	22950	22295	-2.87
Toyota Corolla 1.3 GLi 4dr	8525	8275	-2.93
Toyota Corolla 1.8 GXi 5dr	10650	10350	-2.82
Vauxhall Astra LS 4dr Auto	7475	7250	-3.01
Rover 214i 3dr	7250	7025	-3.10
Mitsubishi Space Wagon GLXi	13175	12750	-3.22
Mitsubishi Space Runner GLXi	11450	10995	-3.97
Vauxhall Astra 1.6 GLS Auto Estate	9150	8850	-3.27
Rover 218 SLDT 5dr	8895	8575	-3.60
Vauxhall Astra 1.4 LS (HT) 4dr	7050	6795	-3.61
Ford Granada 2.9i Scorpio Estate	15850	15150	-4.41
Rover 220 Turbo Coupe 2dr	15175	14375	*-5.27*
Ford Granada 2.9i Scorpio 4dr Auto	15225	14295	-6.10
Rover 416 SLi 4dr	8750	8195	-6.34

Prices rounded to simulate actual dealer forecourt prices
HB = hatchback S = saloon Price changes based on L-reg, low mileage cars.
Figures supplied by CAP Motor Research

NOW is the time to start shopping for cars flooding on to forecourts at bargain basement prices.

As our list of 50 bestsellers in the used car market, provided by Cap Motor Research shows, prices on plenty of models are tumbling as dealers try to clear stock.

January is gloomy for dealers who have just shipped out lots of 1995 cars and now have all their trade-ins to get rid of. So bestsellers, particularly fleet cars such as the Vauxhall Astra, Rover 214, Vauxhall Cavalier and Ford's Escort and Mondeo, have all slipped down the price charts.

In stark contrast, Peugeot's excellent little 306 has been strengthening with demand growing for economical hatchbacks that can still offer sporty performance.

Biggest gainer over the past month though is BMW's exotic M3 convertible which is clearly going to stand the test of time as a classic. The car actually put on nearly £2,500 over the month — so in spite of the recession, someone is not frightened of wielding the chequebook.

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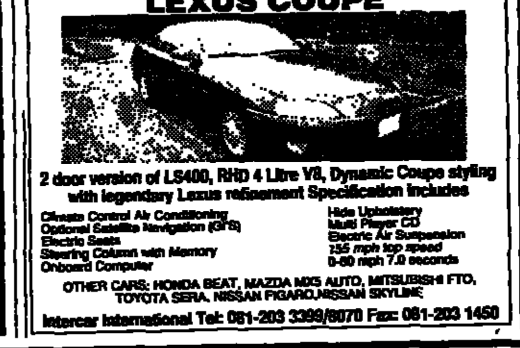

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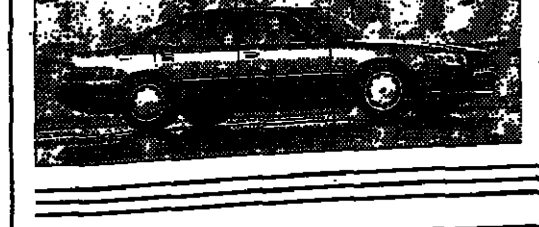

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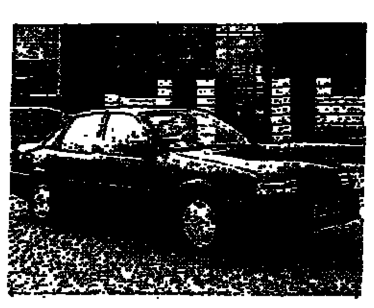

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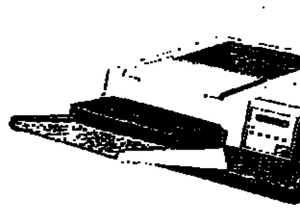

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مكتبة الأهرام

Hundreds of owners of 'nearly-new' classics are revving up for a tussle with the taxman, writes **Kevin Eason**

Classic case of mistaken identity . . .

STEVE FORREST

"If owners have to pay full annual tax for every car, then many will get rid of cars they cannot afford," says Jeff Buck

Representatives of thousands of owners of "nearly-new" classic cars are fighting tax plans which they claim could cost them hundreds of pounds a year.

Their cars may not be the classic "lovelies" that bring a tear to the eye of enthusiasts, but owners of Austin Allegros and Ford Capris believe they could be dragged into new tax proposals which would drive their cherished models off the road.

The Allegro Club International organised a meeting last week to orchestrate opposition to government proposals to switch the current vehicle excise duty of £135 a year to a system which Inland Revenue officials call continuous licensing. That means cars would have to be taxed for a year whether on the road or not, effectively a tax on possessing the car instead of using it.

Classic cars, sometimes off the road for years for restoration and repairs, would also have to be taxed annually.

The issue has caused such a stir that more than 2,200 letters have been sent to ministers from MPs and classic car owners. The furore should mean that the Inland Revenue, currently working on a consultation paper to be published soon, is expected to give a dispensation to owners of cars made before 1970 so that their models are only taxed before being driven.

In the case of 298 recorded veteran cars made up to 1905, that could mean an outing of only once a year for the annual London to Brighton rally. About 7 million vintage and post-war classics could also escape the attention of the taxman, anxious to clamp down on excise duty evasion. About 500,000 evaders were caught in the tax year of 1993-94 in an offensive which brought in £55 million for Treasury coffers. Those evaders tended to be ordinary motorists with no intention of paying tax on their daily transport.

But as many as 50,000 cars — which include popular classics such as the Austin Maxi, Ford Corsair and Morris Marina — would fall into the revised tax trap.

Tony Marshall, chairman of the Allegro Club International, said: "We have to endure the comments of people who say these cars are not worth saving. But they are part of our heritage and become as much classics in their own right as other cars.

"We want ministers to be careful before they damage a well supported group of enthusiasts who own cars which in future will be important contributions to the understanding of the motor industry."

Surveys show classic car owners have an average of six models in their garage — a bill of £810 if they were all post-1970 cars. Some of those are usually undergoing restoration work which can take years in the toughest cases.

Jeff Buck, East Anglian representative for the Opel Manta Owners' Club, which has about 1,500 members, said: "Quite a few cars are used only for weekends or for special occasions. If owners have to pay full annual tax for every car, then many will just get rid of cars they cannot afford and those models will be lost eventually."

Sarah Ibbitson, owner of an American-made 1968 Ford Mustang, who attended the protest meeting, said: "My car has been off the road for two years. I would be lucky because I would just escape this limit at 1970 but it goes to prove that classic cars are not necessarily those which would be in use all of the time."

At your service — a discount for low mileage

Nick Nuttall says owners who look after their cars may win a green bonus

Motorists who drive low mileages and keep their vehicles serviced regularly may soon get a "green" discount on membership of Britain's fastest growing motoring organisation.

The scheme, a breakdown equivalent of the no claims bonus, is being considered by the four-year-old Environmental Transport Association (ETA) as a ploy to boost membership.

The plan is in keeping with the organisation's seemingly contradictory roles as green group and a supporter of motoring. The ETA said that the low-risk discount, which is likely to be around 10 per cent, would favour car owners who drive less and take public transport.

Badly tuned or poorly serviced cars not only break down more but generally pump more pollution into the air. The scheme would therefore also reward motorists who keep their vehicles in a good working condition.

Since its launch the ETA, which mirrors green motoring organisations on the Continent, has grown from zero to more than 10,000 members. It operates a national breakdown and recovery service like that of rival organisations by using a network of 1,500 independent garages and breakdown agents to assist members.

The association, which was set up with support from alternative transport and conservation groups such as Transport 2000 and the World Wide Fund for Nature, aims to boost its numbers further by challenging its establishment rivals — the AA, RAC and National Breakdown. Attacking and lobbying against rival organisations is at the heart of the association's philosophy and has won many members who do not own cars. In fact around 10 per cent of its number do not own a car but are keen to back schemes such as the association's Green Transport Week, an annual bash which promotes cycling, car sharing, rambling by train and political campaigns for more public transport.

"The AA, the RAC and National Breakdown are all members of the British Road Federation. This means if you are a member of any of these organisations, you are indirectly giving your support to bulldozing the countryside for more roads, in turn creating more noise, more pollution and more accidents," the ETA claims.

Dr Jeremey Vanke, environmental manager with the RAC, says to characterise the main motoring organisations as anti-environment is misleading. He says the RAC supports groups such as the National Society for Clean Air and the Countryside Council for Wales.

However, he concedes they may have to look themselves at some of the green schemes offered by the ETA. For example, the new organisation also offers a breakdown service for cyclists who take out a £20 insurance policy recovering them to the nearest cycle shop, railway station or car rental agency. It also has around 80 fleet members including the Body Shop and the RSPB.

The ETA, The Old Post House, Heath, Weybridge, Surrey. 0932-828882.

DR DASHBOARD

How to drive in the wet

Q After the snow has come the floods. Should I be as worried about the rain as I would be about a "big freeze"?

A Definitely. Rain can be just as hazardous.

Q So what should I do?

A Start by checking the car over now. There are just as many important areas to be sure of when coping with rain as snow, such as windscreen wipers, brakes, heating and lights, which should all be working and clean. And check the tyres, which should have the correct tread depth and be properly inflated.

Q Surely driving is not so difficult even if it is raining?

A It can be. Too many drivers keep the same speeds as in the dry and discover they are in a spin too late to do anything about it. Cut your speed and don't look at the end of the bonnet but as far ahead as you can to be ready for hazards. Also check your brakes frequently, applying them if you have just sloshed through puddles.

Q When am I in danger of getting into a skid?

A If you hit corners too fast or brake too hard. Beware of aquaplaning too. That happens when you hit a patch of water, which doesn't need to be deep, and the tyres lose contact with the tarmac. You are literally surfing. Keep an eye open for puddles along the outside lane of the motorway or on the crown of bends.

Q What if that happens and I lose control of the car?

A It seems obvious to say it: don't panic. The natural reaction is to slam the foot down on the middle pedal as it all goes wrong but have the confidence not to. The first warning of aquaplaning is the absence of tyre noise and the steering wheel lightening. Get off the throttle fast to lose momentum and if the car starts to head into a spin, turn towards the skid to keep the car straight.

Q Is this advice the same for any skid?

A Just about. The key is to treat the car gently. Be at the correct speed when you enter a corner, so you don't have to brake halfway round. That is a recipe for disaster. Similarly, brake gently and a long way ahead of junctions. If the car starts to slide, get off the throttle and brake gently several times in a sequence called cadence braking. A series of short pushes rather than one long slam down should keep the car straight.

Q Surely nothing else could go wrong, particularly if we are moving so slowly in some of the deep water that covers most of Britain this week?

A Wrong again. Are you sure your car can negotiate deep puddles? Some cars have air intakes low down in the engine compartment and suck water into the engine if the water is too deep. The result: a blown engine.

Q If I get stuck in deep water, is there a way out?

A Some motorists remember the old trick of turn the starter motor over several times to "jump" the car out of water. If you have a catalytic converter, it will be flooded with petrol and ruined. Why not call a breakdown truck?

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Jaguar's XJ range is beating auto crime, reports **Kevin Eason**, motoring correspondent

Is it impossible to steal this car?

It bristles with the sort of technology that that would baffle the average scientist. Jaguar's new XJ saloon, though, will face a tougher test than a confrontation with the world's best brains — on the streets, where thieves seem able to beat even the most sophisticated systems to steal hundreds of millions of pounds worth of cars every year.

The Jaguar is different — and it could be the most difficult car in the country to steal.

The British Vehicle Rental and Leasing Association, which represents companies that run about a million company cars and lorries, yesterday named the Jaguar XJ series as winner of its annual anti-theft award. If proof was needed, Jaguar could not find a single case of its new XJ range being stolen over the past year.

MOST PRONE TO THEFT

1 Ford Fiesta RS Turbo
2 Vauxhall Astra GTE
3 BMW 318iS Coupe
4 VW Corrado 16v
5 BMW 320i
6 BMW 325i
7 Ford Orion 1.6i Ghia
8 Rover Metro 1.4 GTi
9 VW Golf VR6
10 Ford Escort RS Turbo

Source: Norwich Union Insurance

The armoury of equipment devised by a team of more than 50 electronics experts and engineers over three years is presenting the sort of challenge a thief detests. Car crime is now so rife (one million thefts and break-ins a year, costing insurers £450 million) that devising security equipment has become almost as important at companies such as Jaguar as designing a new engine or gearbox.

That is why Nick Scheele, company chairman, asked his team to come up with the best security on the market, equipment that would be built into the skin of the car rather than bolted on. Add-on security devices can be effective, but thieves often know how they work because they, like motorists, can buy them off the shelf. Build a package into the car, which costs from £30,000, and the thief needs to know the intricacies of the model's electronics, its engine management system and its circuitry.

Jaguar's system of locks, alarms and immobilisers is so sophisticated that experts believe it is a year ahead of the competition. David Williamson, the firm's manager for electrical engineering, who headed the security team, said: "Our approach was to go for a complete package so no part of the security can be separated from the car. It means it is more complex at the design stage but that is also more difficult for the thief."

The system starts with the ignition key and its remote infra-red gun containing a tiny transponder with 4 billion codes, which change with each press to unlock the car. A similar system of rolling encrypted codes is built into the key to release the engine immobiliser, which is wired into the engine management computer. Start-up is impossible without the correct unlocking code, selected from a billion possible numbers.

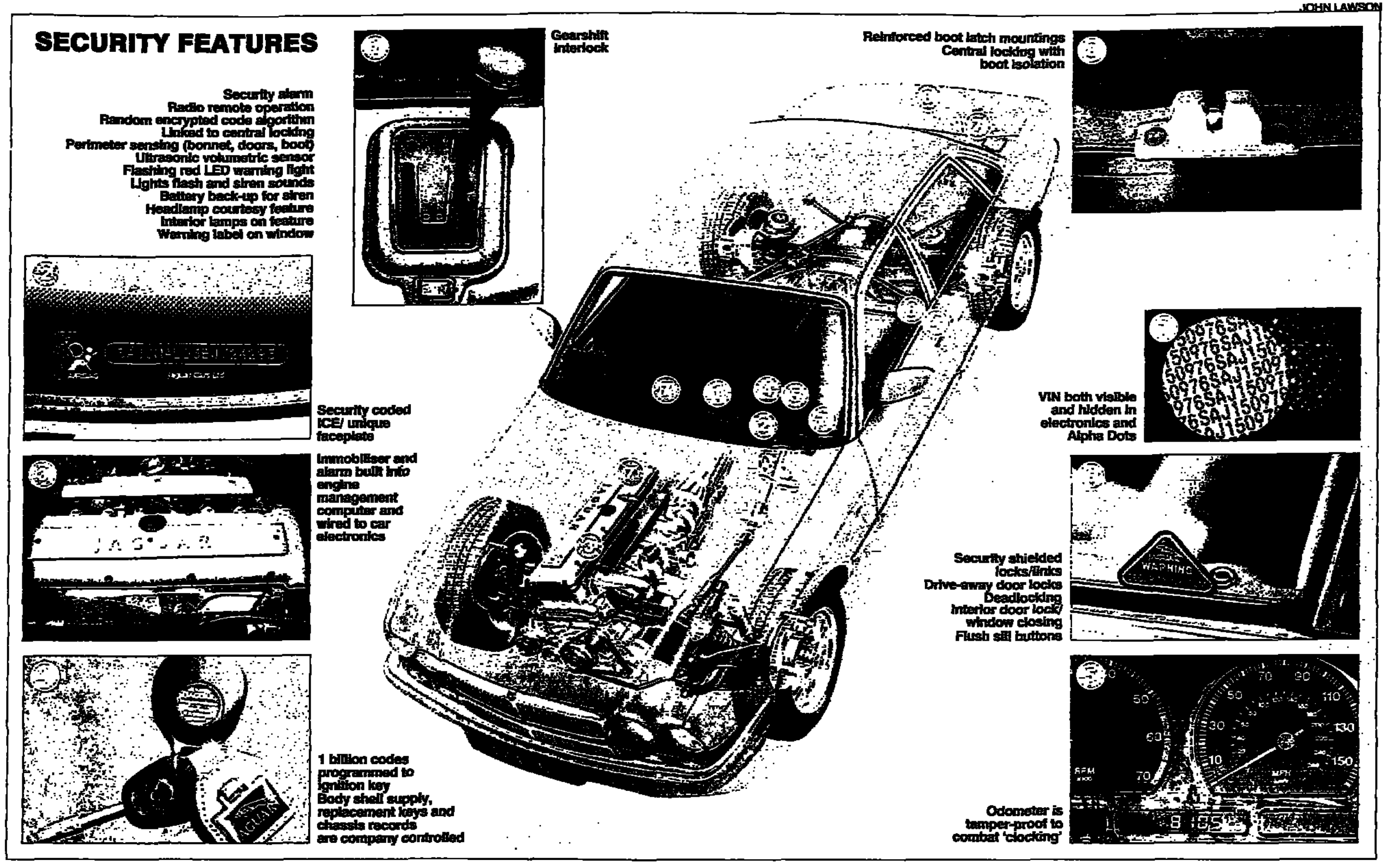
There would be little point in trying to break through the door locks because they are shielded but even if a thief got in, the system means the car cannot be "hot-wired". By then, the alarm, which detects entry and movement inside the car, would be sounding. Even if a window is smashed, the car has deadlocks with the buttons flush to the sill so doors cannot be opened.

Maybe it would be easier for a thief to try "carjacking", opening the door to dive in while the car is stopped at lights or a junction. Not with the new XJ series, because all models are fitted with doors which lock automatically as the car is driven away.

The infra-red gun also activates systems for locking the boot and glovebox separately, and the biggest source of concern inside the car — the stereo — is also protected, for it is fitted into the walnut veneer fascia. If removed, it is useless.

There is also a tamper-proof device that prevents "clocking" by wily dealers, and the ingenious Alpha Dot. Owners can take a handful of microdots encoded with their Jaguar's vehicle identification number (VIN) and simply stick them anywhere in the car. Thieves cannot see them but police can read the Alpha Dots using an infra-red gun, identifying the vehicle immediately.

JOHN LAWSON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Interior lamps on feature
Warning label on window
Gearshift interlock
Reinforced boot latch mountings
Central locking with boot isolation
Security coded ICE/ unique faceplate
VIN both visible and hidden in electronics and Alpha Dots
Immobiliser and alarm built into engine management computer and wired to car electronics
Security shielded locks/links
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Deadlocking
Interior door lock/ window closing
Flush sill buttons
1 billion codes programmed to ignition key
Body shell supply, replacement keys and chassis records are company controlled
Odometer is tamper-proof to combat 'clocking'
WARNING

FROM THE STREET

■ IT TOOK only a few moments for Geoffrey Senior to lose his Ferrari to a gang of thieves.

Mr Senior wanted to park his Ferrari 328, worth about £42,000, in the garage of his South Yorkshire home. He left the car with its 3.2-litre engine burbling away at the roadside as he walked up the drive to open the garage doors. In those seconds, three teenagers were off into the distance with his car.

"The car was only about 10 feet away from me," said Mr Senior, "when I was suddenly aware that someone was around it. The next thing, it was off and I had lost it."

Fortunately, the Ferrari was fitted with a Tracker device, the homing beacon which signals the car's whereabouts to the police. Within minutes, South Yorkshire police found the car in a field but damage amounted to about £12,000.

Mr Senior has now fitted the car with an engine immobiliser to prevent it being driven away — and installed an automatic garage door.

FROM THE DRIVE

■ A quiet drive in a quiet suburb is a happy hunting ground for thieves. One company had two cars stolen within hours of each other from what is normally considered the safety of the front drive.

A Vauxhall Cavalier SRi was stolen by joyriders, while a few miles away a Mazda Xedos was taken on the same day, this time by professionals to use as a getaway car.

Both thefts ended with damage and the form-filling that is the daily grind of fleet managers all over Britain. Laurence Harvey, operations manager for Howard Smith Papers in Northampton, has 107 cars and 52 lorries on his company fleet and theft is a constant problem he has to confront.

"We have had cars stolen which have good alarm and immobiliser systems, such as the Cavalier," he said. "There seems no way of stopping the determined thieves and it becomes a calculation of the cost of installing extra security euipment against the cost of the vehicle we are protecting."

FROM THE GARAGE

■ Even the security of a garage was not enough to protect Dave Race's car which went on a 12-hour tour of London with thieves at the wheel. Mr Race locked away his BMW 318i in the garage under his flat in London expecting it would be safe from the prying and envious eyes of thieves.

Next morning, it was gone. Thieves had forced the garage doors and the door on the BMW and driven away one of the cars which tops the list of most desirable models among Britain's car criminals.

Mr Race said: "Owners of cars like BMWs know that thieves will be looking out for them so it is as well to lock them away. You would think it was safe in the garage."

Police spotted the car in a side street a few hours later, parked with its headlamps on. Then it disappeared and police followed the car, which was equipped with a Tracker homing device. It turned up next day with a few dozen miles on the clock, but at least undamaged.

Racy touches flatter a cute little mover

TIMES ROAD TEST: **Alan Copps** on Fiat's new sporting baby

The Cinquecento Sporting is quite literally in a class of its own. Nobody but Fiat makes such a tiny car with such sporty performance at such a low price (£6,195). But then who else would?

The Sporting is an example of a big car company doing something it is good at. Like all the best Fiats, it is small — very small — and like all Fiats, it needs driving: to get the best out of it you have to keep the revs up and work at the neat little gearbox. It's hardly a relaxing drive but that's not what it was made for: it's a cheap, fun car, just like those souped-up Abarth versions in the days when the rounded little Fiat 500 provided basic transport for millions in Italy and became a cult car elsewhere.

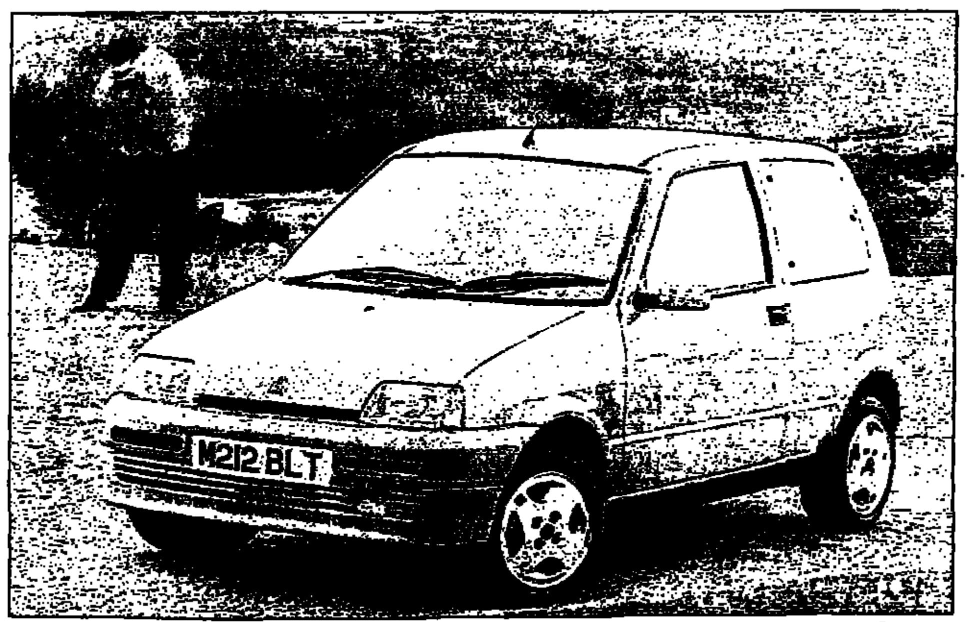
What Fiat would like is for this bright and breezy little car to revive that trick and become a cult among younger drivers who want a first car or a trendy town car with a touch of style at an affordable price.

With an overall length of just 10ft 7in and a turning circle of 28ft 9in, it is one of the most manouevrable vehicles you can buy. Find the right space and it would be quite feasible to try the old Italian trick of parking nose-to-the-pavement between two cars at adjoining meters, but who would get the ticket?.

The term stylist hardly existed when the original 500 abounded, but Fiat's designers have been hard at work on the new baby. It comes in only three colours, racing (violent) red, broom (very loud) yellow and shiny black, has light alloy wheels and an asymmetrical look at the front "inspired by racing car design to add a touch of originality", says the publicity material.

In fact, the look is achieved by highlighting one air intake and leaving the other plain — is this the first *trompe-l'oeil* bumper? The style is laid on in a typically self-conscious Italian way: you might not like the boxy cut-off hatchback shape, but you can't ignore it, and the dashboard layout, with its neatly-placed tachometer, black leather-clad steering wheel and gear lever knob, and deep hood to cut out glare, is an excellent example of how to make the practical look good, too.

The car does not, however, rely entirely on looks. Technology has moved on since the old 500 finally lost its way sometime in the 1970s. Rear engines and rear-wheel-drive have given way to a front engine and front-wheel-drive; noisy engines have given way to a smoothly revving power unit with fuel injection and cranky four-speed gear shifts have given way to a sharp, positive five-speed. Both the 1108cc overhead camshaft engine and the transmission were designed for the larger Punto, so giving the tiny Cinquecento an enjoyably brisk performance.



Sporting: the 3-door hatchback can reach 93mph and manages 37.6mpg around town

Where better to try out this little funmobile than the rain-soaked, mud strewn and occasionally flooded roads of the West Country last weekend. The first good thing about the Cinquecento is just how comfortable it is, even for a tall driver. There's plenty of headroom, which is just as well, because this is a very responsive car: the temptation to throw it into corners or over bumps is irresistible and with such a short wheelbase, the sensations thus achieved are very direct.

Such driving might not be recommended in the long term but it did serve to emphasise how well-designed the seats are, giving plenty of lateral support without much help from the racing red seat belts which come as standard in all cars.

The roadholding was up to anything that lively driving on loose surfaces in pouring rain presented and on a single-track, partly-flooded lane, a close encounter of the unexpected kind with an oncoming car proved that the brakes are just as adequate.

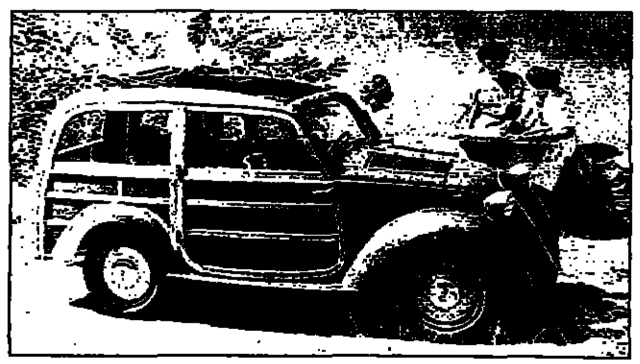
So from the driver's point of view the car proved to be fun. But I would not have wanted to be my own passenger. For a start, if the driver is taller than about 5ft 9in, there can't be enough leg room in the back for an adult passenger; and the rear wheel arches either side of the back seat do not look like comfortable resting places for long. That said, the car is hardly designed to carry four adults over any great distance. Where would they put their luggage?

Unlike its primitive cousins of the 1960s, though, this would be a reasonable motorway transport for one or two people.

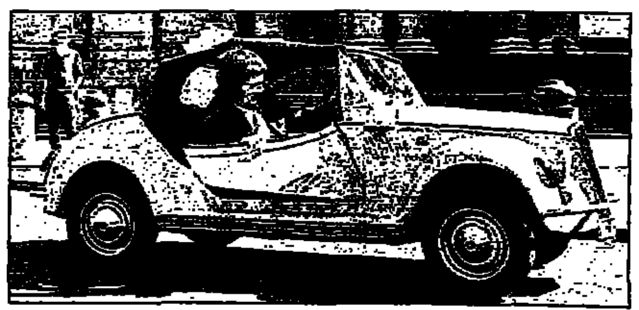
The driving position is comfortable and the engine remarkably quiet at 75mph. The claimed fuel consumption at that speed of 44.8mpg would make it a very economical way to travel.

Fiat 500 history

THE first Fiat 500 in 1936 was then the world's smallest car: engine capacity 569cc; top speed 85 kmh (50mph); room for two and 50kg of luggage with miserly fuel consumption. The Italian public christened it the Topolino (Mickey Mouse). It continued virtually unchanged until 1948. The more powerful 500B launched that year was the first real four-seater. The cult of the tiny car really took off in 1957 when the New 500 appeared. Over the next 18 years 3,678,000 were produced. The Cinquecento name was revived in 1992, with a choice of petrol or electric engines, the latter not available in the UK.

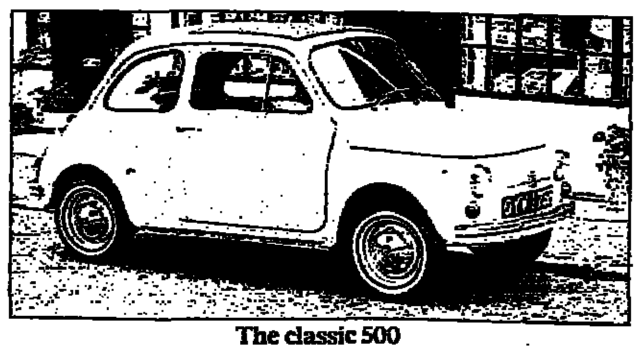


Rustic Giardiniera, 1948



The cute Gamine, 1970s

Original Topolino, 1936



The classic 500

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rover ready to take the pain out of accidents

Rover is offering an accident management service for all its cars registered on or after August 1 last year.

After an accident, the AA, which is managing the scheme for Rover, will take care of all details from recovery to insurance claims and repairs.

Facts by fax

Written reports on 200 new and nearly new cars are now available from the AA by fax. Dial 0336-424999 for a list of available details and receive a four-page report by return. Price 39p a minute cheap rate and 49p other times.

Help on hand

With more traffic comes advice on driving tips from the *Collins Pocket Reference Driving Skills*, published by HarperCollins, price £4.99. The pocket book covers everything from accidents to zebra crossings.

Parity claim

Hyundai claims that it is getting close to trade parity with the UK. The company imported 12,247 vehicles worth £110 million last year but bought UK goods worth more than £81 million.

Rallying cry

Renault is to enter the British Rally Championship with a 230-brake horse power version of the Clio Williams. The five-round series starts on March 17 and ends with the RAC Rally. The little Clio, which will have a six-speed gearbox, will be cheered on by the company's 270 dealers.

Best by miles

Alan Bryan was thinking of buying a new car — but his Escort seemed reliable enough even with 511,000 miles on the clock, he told Ford. Mr Bryan, from Hampshire, rang Ford's customer services department to ask if his 1987 Escort diesel would keep running and a check by the company's Dagenham engine department revealed some wear on the valve guides and seats but no problems. The Escort even passed current exhaust emmision tests and Ford is wondering whether this is their highest mileage Escort ever.

Youve had rather a lot of mileage from your old escort Cynthia
GED

Astra launch

A new low-price Astra has been launched by Vauxhall. The Astra Atlas is £600 less than the current Astra Merit E-drive at £9,495 (three-door) or £9,895 (five-door) and comes with a 1.6-litre E-drive economy engine.

Taking the load

Britons must be carrying more shopping because sales of small estate cars are soaring, up 57 per cent in three years. Vauxhall's Astra and the Ford Escort lead the bestsellers followed by the Citroen ZX.

Safe and sound

Mercedes has added infra-red remote locking to all its C-class, S-class and SL sports models and upgraded the immobiliser.

NEXT WEEK

In our series of British cars that made history, Lord Montagu of Beaulieu will be looking at the Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost of 1907, a key model in establishing the company's reputation for excellence. His appraisal will again be accompanied by a finely-produced cutaway drawing.

CAR 95

Cover title piece by Philip Castle who has worked on major commissions for Vogue, Playboy and film posters, notably for Stanley Kubrick's *A Clockwork Orange*. His personal paintings have enjoyed the success of three exhibitions and reflect his passion for cars, planes and movies of the 1930s and 1940s.

Andrew Pierce meets Nick Ashley, proud owner of the 'Strange Rover'

'My car can frighten a Porsche and is a cool place to hang out'

Nick Ashley, the son of Laura Ashley, has moved one of the most famous names in Britain's high streets into menswear for the first time.

He has opened an experimental shop in Notting Hill, called Nick Ashley, which is producing his own British made machine washable classic clothing.

Motorists are catered for by Nick who subscribed to his first car magazine at the age of seven.

How did you first learn to drive?

I was taught at 17 by my father. He put me in his Ferrari and made me drive from Wales to London. I was threatened with a knuckle if I missed a gear change at the right revs. He sold the car shortly afterwards and told me to earn my own.

What was your first car?

A Hillman Hunter. I took my father's advice and earned it when I was 18 by working on Saturdays in the first Laura Ashley shop which was in Fulham Road, London. I was the bag check boy.

What car do you drive now and why?

My handmade "Strange Rover". I always admired the Range Rover but not the body so I decided to make my own. Well, *I came up with the* concept. We took the body of a 1971 Rover P5B Coupe, recycled it onto a Land Rover chassis (which was new), added Range Rover axles, and a Chevy 5.7 engine. It can go anywhere, tow anything, frighten a Porsche, and is a cool place to hang out in traffic jams.

Do you enjoy driving?

I have to. My manufacturers are dotted all over the country, which means a lot of Little Chefs. I have had good practice. I did a 1,000 kilometre desert run in Baja, Mexico and my sights are set on the Paris-Dakar rally 1997.

STEERING COLUMN

What is your dream car?

My "Strange Rover". It is a gentleman's club which can be hurled across any terrain with a mere twiddle of the moustache. I only wish that I had more use for the old girl. I use my motorbike, a Ducati 750 Desert Sled, most of the time.

What is your most hated car?

Those American Euro-style compacts … from grand to bland. How the mighty have fallen. Difficult to believe that a nation which used to cruise in GTOs, and rent a Shelby from Hertz for the weekend, is now perfectly content with mobile mini tupperware boxes. Bring back the Yank Tank! Only make it with an electric motor.

What is your worst habit in the car?

Getting aggressive (rare) because British motorists always give way instead of merging into lines of traffic. You can always rely on them to let one in and then 10 nip through.

What infuriates you most about other drivers?

Their pointless obsession with new cars. I am a bit of a bore on this subject. But, apparently, it takes more fuel to make a car than a car will ever burn in a lifetime. It's madness. People should look after cars or buy ones which will last longer.

What's the most unusual thing you have done in your car?

My Hillman Hunter packed up on top of a Welsh mountain on a bleak winter's night. We were so far from anywhere I had to sleep in it. It was poetic justice. My father, who had insisted I bought it, was in the passenger seat. I slept like a doll. He didn't get a wink.

Have you ever had points on your licence?

Yes. I reversed a car with seven passengers through red traffic lights and crashed it into a car full of nuns in front of a gleeful policeman. He already had his pad out when I emerged from the wreckage.

What do you listen to in the car?

Reggae, soul, Tom Jones, The Trojans. Anything with a big bass.

If you were Transport Secretary, what is the first thing you would do?

I would encourage people to use scooters and motorbikes in city centres. It would detox our cities of the dreaded single driver motorcar. I could also supply the posh biker clothes from my shop.

What is your favourite/most hated car ad?

It's that terrible Nicole. The dubbing is so awful. I want to throttle them both.

DENZIL McNEELANCE

Nick Ashley and his handmade "Strange Rover"

King: launched car

Sporting car that's fit for a king

A COMPANY with royal connections in Malaysia has launched a sports car modelled on a 1920s-style automobile.

King Tunku Abdul Rahman of Malaysia struck a traditional brass gong to launch the Bufori, a jaunty convertible made by an Australian-Malaysian joint venture company.

"Malaysia has already established a reputation as a car manufacturer with the Proton and Perodua and the production of the Bufori is icing on the cake," said the king's son, Imran, chairman of STI Bufori Sdn Bhd, referring to Malaysia's two other car companies.

Vinod Sekhar, company president, said the car would have an Australian design, Japanese engine technology and Malaysian workmanship. *It will be built at a* factory in Senawang, in the West Coast state of Negri Sembilan.

"While the Bufori is a classic car reminiscent of the 1920s era with handcrafted interiors of soft leather and walnut panelling, it performs like a modern sports car with a top speed of 125 mph," Sekhar said.

Jennai Cox on a novel offer that's very easy to refuse

Park your electric car for free — if you can buy one

The offer seems too good to be true in a motoring world packed with wardens and clamps — park your car in Westminster and leave it on a meter for free — but only if it's an electric vehicle.

However the question facing motorists who want to go green and swap their Rover Metros for an electric runabout is where could they buy an electric car?

There are an estimated 30 electric car drivers in London and the scarcity of battery-powered vehicles means that Westminster Council's offer appears useless. Even if a determined motorist could find one, the smallest electric car would cost £15,000 — twice the price of an ordinary petrol-driven Ford Fiesta.

Undaunted, a number of companies are in the throes of bringing battery power to Britain. Peugeot will be making electric cars on trial at its plant at Ryton in Coventry next year.

In about six weeks, Alternative Vehicle Technology, of Taunton, Somerset, launches a new kit car, the AVT-100E, based on the running gear of a conventional Rover Metro.

Roger Fowler, a senior partner, has been working on the kit for four years and hopes to produce 25 made-to-order cars in the first year. He said: "The insurance is low, a 40-mile trip costs 40p as opposed to £2.50 in a normal car and there is no MoT."

Lynch Motor Company in north London says conversions for standard petrol-powered Ford Fiestas could be available soon for as little as £7,000. There are also a number of agents dealing mainly in foreign-made electric vehicles. CCS International in Kent imports converted vans from Finland, a small two-seater Danish car and French-manufactured electric vans.

The Battery Vehicle Society can offer help to new owners on the upkeep of their cars and sell conversion instructions for £25.

But the motor industry still has to be convinced about such vehicles. Roger King, public affairs director for the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, says: "As far as I am aware you can't go out and buy an electric car and won't be able to for many years to come."

Information on electric cars: The Electric Vehicle Association, 0933-276618; The Battery Vehicle Society, 0258 455470; Alternative Vehicle Technology, 0823 480196; Lynch Motor Company, 071-607-8141; CCS-ZEC International, 0303-265559; Cheshman Vehicle Exports, 0785-49775; IAD International Automotive Design, 0303-581533; Smith's Electric Vehicles, 091-487-1311.

AUTOCAR

Live wire: the new AVT-100E to be launched shortly

In a jam and going nowhere fast

TRAFFIC jams cost Britain's motorists almost five lost days *of their lives every year.*

Traffic*master*, the motorway traffic information service, has calculated just how much time drivers are forced to sit in queues.

According to their research, drivers who cover more than 10,000 miles a year lose a total of 1.2 billion hours a year in traffic jams. A fifth of those frequent drivers estimated they spent four hours a week — equivalent to eight days a year just sitting still at the wheel, going nowhere fast.

The result of the jams was that a quarter of the 1,761 drivers interviewed were late for work and one in six had missed a business appointment in the month before they were questioned.

Traffic*master* has also charted the return of heavy traffic to Britain's roads since the end of the recession. Traffic flow on the M1, for example, was nine per cent heavier last year than in 1993.

That meant that the average Monday morning rush hour *delay on the motorway* between junctions eight and 12 stretched from 16 minutes on average in 1993 to 22 minutes last year.

Worse still, even a hint of an accident and everything went wrong. In the London area last year, there was an average of 3.6 serious accidents a week on the M1. They resulted in tailbacks of 9,600 vehicles — at least 12 miles on the three-carriageway motorway.

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Forget lunch! The ladies who race

Wilful women are increasingly winning in the male-led racing world, reports

Morag Preston

MICHAEL SCOTT

Racy lady: Amanda Whitaker with her 170mph Vauxhall Lotus. "Male drivers used to think a little girl like me was a gimmick — until I got on the track"

Both men and women get "the red mist". It is what sets racing drivers apart. They feel a rush of blood to their head, a surge of passion and an all-consuming desire to win. Until recently, however, girl racers were marginalised: the confidence required to win a race was considered to be "unladylike".

Women were said to lack both the mental and physical strength needed to control a fast car. Over the past three years, however, an increasing number of successful women drivers have challenged the myth that racing is a male sport. Svelte young racers such as Kirsten Kolby and Heather Bailey have proved that women can beat men, and that the will to win is paramount.

Amanda Whitaker, 20, an accounts officer from County Durham, was the first British woman to win a Formula Vauxhall race in one of the country's premier single-seater championships. Last year, she was named most outstanding driver by the Northern Motor Racing Club. She says: "I've been at the circuit since I was three months old. Dad was a racer, so it has almost been a second life.

"Racing is a sport where women can compete on an equal footing with men. But when a woman beats them, they get a lot of grief from their mechanics. I drive a Vauxhall Lotus and reach speeds of up to 170mph. Male drivers used to think a little girl like me was *a gimmick — until I got on the* track.

"Racing gives me a real high. I never get nervous before a race. In fact, I'm quite calm and collected. I get a buzz out of racing, especially when I beat men. They think I'm going to dawdle, so I love it when I put the car in pole position, and there are all these men behind me. There are 15 races per season, from April 1 to September 30, which costs £25,000. Dad pays £8,000 and my sponsors pay the rest.

"I've never crashed, and have only had one speeding fine — when my L-plate was still on. I am a very impatient driver, and start swearing along the motorway. I've always driven in the outside lane, and break the speed limit most of the time. My mum *doesn't have the confidence to* drive, and my boyfriend is a very bad passenger. He goes very quiet, even in my 1.8 diesel Fiesta."

Sarah Johnson, 29, a secretary from New Malden, Surrey, has been rallying for seven years. She is the only woman to have driven an MG Metro 6R4, the famous Group B car of which there are 15 left in rallying today. She says: "The B stands for burn. Rallying gives me the biggest kick. It's like a drug. It's about being in control, in the seat of power. I am somewhat hyper, and find it difficult to relax, but rallying knocks this out of me.

"There are people with a natural ability to control a car, and there's no reason why they shouldn't be women. The downside is that you have to be incredibly strong. Acceleration on the Metro is 0-60mph in three seconds. Most women aren't up to it, and I couldn't even turn the steering wheel at the end of my first race, but now I take training seriously. Although men are more aggressive in their driving, women are as quick, and perhaps more calculating. You have to find your reaction level, and drive within that limit. Too much aggression can lead to mistakes.

Fast track: Sarah Johnson with her Group B rally car. "The B stands for burn"

"An old boyfriend introduced me to rallying. It started as a dare, then I was hooked. My friends have always been car-orientated, and have formed my service crew.

"I was very lucky to meet someone who was prepared to share his car, but the fees for road and forest rallying are expensive. It costs £7,000 to replace the engine. I've decided that a change is as good as a rest, so I'm moving on to historic car racing."

Win a trip to supercar show

The International Performance Motor Show roars into action at Olympia next week – and readers can win a trip to London to visit the impressive gathering of cars, bikes, accessories and experts.

Answer the questions below and you could win the first prize of return rail travel to London for two people, bed and breakfast at the Radisson Vanderbilt Hotel in Kensington on February 11 and tickets to the show the next day.

The prize also includes a video, *Porsche – the Racing Legend*, worth £19.99, and a copy of the *1995 Mini A-Z Great Britain Road Atlas*, worth £2.75.

Ten runners-up will each win two tickets to the show and copies of the video and the road atlas.

Even if you do not win, *The Times* offers special extras when you visit the show, held from February 9 to February 12. Present the *Times* token when you buy a family or an adult admission ticket and you will receive a free copy of the road atlas.

You will also be entitled to special rates, from £39.60 per person per night, including full English breakfast, at eight Radisson Edwardian hotels in London. Guests will also receive a discount of 50% on any three-course lunch or dinner taken at any Radisson Edwardian hotel. For full details of the hotel offer, phone free on 0800-19 1991.

The show features a huge display of racing and sports cars, plus tuning equipment and accessories. From Germany, the Association of German Automobile Tuners will bring cars never before seen in Britain.

Tickets cost £7.50, or £3.50 for under-15s. A family ticket, for two adults and two children, is £18. For details of opening times and to book in advance, ring 0181-744 1585.

To order a copy of the video *Porsche – the Racing Legend*, phone Woodcote Films on 021-608 9030. The video costs £19.99 plus £1.50 p&p.

The questions:

1) When and where did Stirling Moss win his first grand prix?

2) Which team won the 1,000km race at Silverstone and the Constructors' Championship in 1984?

Phone your answers to 0891-919 631 before midnight on Monday. Winners will be selected at random from all correct entries received by the closing date. Calls cost 39p per minute off-peak and 49p per minute at other times.

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